United Nations A/57/PV.20

# General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

*Official Records*

**20**th plenary meeting
Friday, 27 September 2002, 10 a.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Jan Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 20**

**Admission of new Members to the United Nations (rule 136)**

**Application for admission** (A/56/953)

**Letter from the President of the Security Council** (A/57/258)

**Draft resolution** (A/57/L.3)

**The President**: I should like to invite the General Assembly to consider, under item 20 of the agenda, entitled "Admission of new Members to the United Nations", the positive recommendation by the Security Council on the application for admission to membership in the United Nations of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The Security Council has recommended the admission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to membership in the United Nations, as stated in document A/57/258. In this connection, a draft resolution has been submitted in document A/57/L.3.

I now would like to give the floor to the Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso, to introduce draft resolution A/57/L.3.

*Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, was escorted to the rostrum.*

**Mr. Durão Barroso** (Portugal): Timor-Leste is a triumph of the human spirit. It is also proof that adversity can always be overcome and that, in the end, justice prevails. As a Portuguese poet, Fernando Pessoa, noted,

(*spoke in Portuguese*)

"Everything is worthwhile when the soul is not small."

(*spoke in English*)

The Timorese people have shown us that they are true to the basic values we all believe in and that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Today, Timor-Leste is becoming a Member State of the United Nations, although it must be said that the people of Timor-Leste have long been with us.

Timor-Leste reminds us that the United Nations Charter reaffirms our collective faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small. To these ends, we have committed ourselves to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours. This is the way for a new Member State to deal with the world at large and, in turn, for all of us to deal with the new Member State of Timor-Leste. In looking at

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you, people of Timor-Leste, we are looking at ourselves.

Today, we are also paying a fitting tribute to the work of the United Nations in Timor-Leste. This is a success story. It is also proof that in situations of conflict the United Nations can make a difference for the better, provided it is fully supported by Member States. It would only be fair to thank, in particular, the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his determination and single-mindedness in pursuing the right path — the path of freedom and peace. Timor-Leste and the international community owe him a great deal.

The fate of Timor-Leste is now in the hands of the Timorese and their elected President, Xanana Gusmão. I would like also to recognize the presence among us of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta and the Bishop of Dili, Dom Ximenes Belo. This is truly an impressive delegation. We have today in the General Assembly three Nobel Peace Prize winners — including Secretary-General Annan — and one Sakharov Prize winner. No better tribute could be paid to the work of the United Nations in Timor-Leste.

The new country still needs the support of the international community. For Timor-Leste, joining the United Nations is not the end of the road, since its very existence as a democratic and potentially prosperous State still depends on our collective solidarity. International attention to Timor-Leste should not be replaced by international indifference. Indeed, we must now ensure that we do not lose the peace.

I would now like to add a few words in Portuguese.

(*spoke in Portuguese; English text provided by the delegation*)

I would like to express the great honour I feel in representing the Portuguese people in a ceremony to which we attach the deepest meaning. The values that the Timorese embody are the same values that the Portuguese defended for decades, in particular in this General Assembly. It is therefore particularly gratifying for us to have worked together with the friendly nations of Australia and Indonesia on the draft resolution that we are about to adopt.

Portugal will continue to lend a friendly hand to Timor-Leste, a country with which, since the Brasilia summit, we have also been associated with in the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. Thousands of Portuguese have served in the United Nations operations in Timor-Leste and in the bilateral cooperation programmes that we began even before independence. I can assure the Assembly that the Portuguese people and the people of Timor-Leste are much closer in terms of the affection that we feel than our geographical distance would suggest. The Portuguese poet, Camões, stated, "the whole world is made of change"; but there is something that will hardly ever change: the friendship that all Portuguese feel for the people of Timor-Leste.

(*spoke in English*)

On behalf of the 135 sponsors, I have the honour to introduce to the General Assembly the draft resolution contained in document A/57/L.3 and to recommend its adoption by consensus, thereby welcoming by acclamation Timor-Leste as the newest State Member of the United Nations.

*Bem-vindo*, Timor-Leste.

**The President**: Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that, since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors of A/57/L.3: Armenia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Congo, Djibouti, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Tonga, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts the draft resolution by acclamation?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 57/3).

**The President**: I therefore declare the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

*The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.*

**The President**: It is my great honour and privilege to welcome, on behalf of the General

Assembly, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as a new Member of the United Nations.

Only a few months ago — on 20 May 2002 — we congratulated the first elected President of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Xanana Gusmão, and participated in the celebration of the independence of Timor-Leste. I was very happy to attend the independence ceremony in person, and appreciated the fact that I had the opportunity to have a short conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Jose Ramos-Horta. As a former human rights activist and a fighter for the independence of my own country, I bow in respect and salute the courage and determination of the President, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other East-Timorese whose struggle brought about the success we can celebrate today.

Timor-Leste is the first independent State and nation to have emerged in the twenty-first century. We have all watched with admiration how the people of Timor-Leste progressed towards their independence. We all remember the developments that led to the country's independence. It was not easy, but the country and its people succeeded. I am very proud and happy that the United Nations was an integral part of that whole process.

Despite numerous difficulties and barriers, the United Nations Mission in East Timor and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, confirmed that United Nations participation was the right way to help ensure a smooth transition to the status of an independent and sovereign State.

The peaceful transition process in Timor-Leste was a prime example of the ability of the Security Council and the United Nations to respond promptly and decisively to pressing issues.

Timor-Leste's independence, however, does not mark the end of United Nations involvement. On the contrary, it signals the beginning of an important new phase to consolidate the achievements and to build on them. The establishment of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor is one of the examples of such engagement.

The United Nations and its Member States should be prepared to strengthen their support to the region and to the Government of Timor-Leste. They should help in addressing the many remaining issues that need to be resolved. Timor-Leste will, for example, need a fully functioning infrastructure to enable it to earn sufficient revenue so as not to need to rely on continuous aid in the future.

We wish the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and its people peace, prosperity and every success in their future and we warmly welcome Timor-Leste to the United Nations.

I now call on the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

**Mr. Djangone-Bi** (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): The Group of African States at the United Nations fully appreciates the feelings of Timorese men and women on this historic day. It could not do otherwise, since most of the countries of our Group have known the bitter taste of colonization and undertaken national liberation struggles, along with the joy of proclaiming hard-won political independence and the pride and emotion of trading their territorial status for that of independent State and member of the family of sovereign countries within the United Nations.

The African Group therefore salutes the courage of the Timorese people who, despite the tremendous obstacles they faced in their liberation struggle, have remained resolute in their will to sunder the chains that bound them to the yoke of colonization. Through me, the African countries of the United Nations welcome the delegation of Timor-Leste, led by Mr. Xanana Gusmão, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, who is the very resolute embodiment of his people's desire for liberation. May he accept our warm and brotherly congratulations on this achievement.

The African Group also takes this opportunity to commend the remarkable work of the United Nations, and in particular that of Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello, in the creation of the new State.

The African Group reaffirms its support for the reconstruction and reconciliation efforts of the international community on behalf of Timor-Leste. We believe that, like a newborn child, that country must be the focus of the attention of its development partners in the international community. For its part, Africa is prepared to lend its fraternal support and cooperation. In that respect, we wish the new State peaceful

coexistence with all its neighbours so that it may devote itself fully to the country's development.

In celebrating Timor-Leste's entry into the great United Nations family, the African Group would remind everyone that we are in the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and that there remain 16 non-self-governing territories on the list of territories still to be decolonized. Let us therefore strive, like Timor-Leste, to rid the world of colonialism in the twenty-first century.

**The President**: I now call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

**Mr. Zarif** (Islamic Republic of Iran): I am honoured and privileged to speak today on behalf of the Asian Group to welcome an Asian country to the United Nations family. We are extremely pleased to have among us the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, led by President Xanana Gusmão. We offer our most sincere congratulations to President Gusmão and through him to the people and Government of East Timor on their country's admission today to the United Nations. It is a pleasant moment for all of us to witness the independence of Timor-Leste through the central political role of the United Nations and the commendable cooperation and support of its Member States.

Our Group is very much aware that there are many pressing needs and priorities for the new nation of East Timor. We are encouraged by the wisdom and foresight of the leadership as well as the people of Timor-Leste, who have adopted a forward-looking attitude. We in the Asian Group welcome the excellent and fast-growing relations between Timor-Leste and other countries in the region, particularly Indonesia. Undoubtedly, ongoing and timely international support and cooperation are imperative to enable post-independence Timor-Leste to make quick and steady progress.

Once again, I would like to express our best wishes to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on this significant event and to wish the Government and people of Timor-Leste peace, prosperity and a bright future.

**The President**: I now call on the representative of Ukraine to speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

**Mr. Kuchinsky** (Ukraine): On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States and my own country, Ukraine, I have the honour and great pleasure to congratulate the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on its admission to the United Nations.

The attainment of independence by Timor-Leste marked the culmination of a long process of self-determination and transition. On 20 May, history was made in Dili as the Timorese celebrated the birth of their country — the first independent nation of the new millennium.

Great progress has been made over the past two and a half years in establishing the foundations of the State, in particular in the political and security spheres. The Timorese has set an example through their steadfast adherence to the core values of the United Nations Charter, to reconciliation and to the creation of democratic institutions aimed at safeguarding human rights and values.

In May, all of us in the General Assembly congratulated the East Timorese Government and people on their attainment of independence. We paid tribute to the leaders of Timor-Leste for their efforts in achieving that goal.

The United Nations has played a crucial role in restoring peace to that nation and in building a solid basis for a democratic, viable and stable State. Let me express our deepest appreciation to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Sergio Vieira de Mello, as well as to the Governments of Australia and Indonesia, for their efforts to make this possible. We commend the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor for the important work it has done to assist the people of Timor-Leste to develop a sustainable social system. Their work constitutes a vivid example of the Organization's ability to tackle the hardest tasks and achieve tangible results. The unique challenges of the Timor-Leste transition have also provided an opportunity for our Organization and its Member States to put into practice new approaches to peacekeeping and to post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction.

Today's historic occasion fills our hearts with pride, dignity and joy. Let me welcome the Democratic

Republic of Timor-Leste, congratulate the Group of Asian States and wish the Government and the people of Timor-Leste every success, and prosperity and peace.

**The President**: I now give the floor to Her Excellency Mrs. Irma Loemban Tobing-Klein, Permanent Representative of Suriname, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

**Mrs. Loemban Tobing-Klein** (Suriname): Especially today, on such a wonderful occasion — the admittance of a new Member to the greatest family of nations — we should extend peace and love to one another and to the Government and the people of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in the light of the peace message that the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly presented to us last Friday on the eve of 21 September, the International Day of Peace, when we, the international community, applauded the United Nations call for a global ceasefire and non-violence.

On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I am very pleased to wholeheartedly welcome the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as the new, 191st State Member of the United Nations. The East Timorese people fought a hard battle to gain their independence. We can only suspect that, after such a struggle, the people of Timor-Leste will work even harder to safeguard their democratic independence and their human rights, for they know what it means to strive for a nation in which justice, democracy and human rights rule.

We also commend the international community, in particular the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal, the United Nations, the Secretary-General and the United Nations administration in Timor-Leste, for assisting Timor-Leste to become an independent nation. The people of Timor-Leste have thus had an excellent introduction to, and experience with, our Organization and our family of nations, which work to improve the life of each of our people and each of their people, and to promote a life of dignity.

The Governments and the peoples of all countries members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group congratulate the Government, the people and the President of Timor-Leste at this great milestone and express the wish and the prayer that peace and love may prevail every day, everywhere, under all circumstances.

**The President**: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Gonçalo de Santa Clara Gomes, the representative of Portugal, to speak on behalf of the Western European and other States.

**Mr. De Santa Clara Gomes** (Portugal): It is for me a great honour to address the Assembly as Chairman of the Western European and other States Group, upon the admission of Timor-Leste as a State Member of the United Nations.

This meeting today is the culmination of a long and difficult process through which the Timorese people chose to be independent and to live according to the principles that we in this Organization cherish the most: democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. I am sure that Timor-Leste's membership in the United Nations will contribute to the efforts of the Organization to strengthen those principles around the world.

Timorese involvement with the United Nation is not new. We have all supported, we have all participated in and we have all followed with intense emotion the joint effort that the United Nations and the Timorese have made to bring this new country into the international community. The presence here today of a distinguished delegation from Timor-Leste is evidence of that country's continued commitment to the United Nations. The members of the Group of Western European and other States look forward to working closely with the Timorese authorities and their representatives here.

I would like to conclude by paying a special tribute to President Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, Foreign Minister José Ramos-Horta and Bishop Ximenes Belo for their role in leading Timor-Leste to independence.

I must also extend warm appreciation to the Secretary-General for his personal engagement in the process that led to this new membership. As the Timorese flag is raised today, we will all have reason to be proud.

**The President**: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. James Cunningham, representative of the United States of America, the host country.

**Mr. Cunningham** (United States of America): Last May we celebrated the rise of the Timorese people from the ashes of conflict and their creation of an independent nation. Today we celebrate that nation's

accession to its rightful place in the meeting house of mankind, the United Nations.

On behalf of the United States, it gives me great pleasure to offer Timor-Leste a warm welcome to United Nations membership. This day is made all the more profound by the close and unique relationship Timor-Leste has had with the United Nations. Through the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and now the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor, the United Nations and its membership have done much to help the Timorese people in their hard-fought quest for freedom.

The United States is proud to have been able to play a part in that success. United States assistance to Timor-Leste stands at $25 million annually, and it is one of our largest bilateral aid programmes in the world on a per capita basis. In truth, Timor-Leste would never have reached the milestone we mark today without the tenacity and the spirit of its people. It is those same great people who are now taking the reigns of their new freedom and are working for a brighter future.

We applaud the Timorese Government for its efforts to build a nation that can stand on its own two feet. We welcome its work towards a nation that enjoys open, inclusive democracy, a market economy, a just legal system and harmonious relations with its neighbours. We encourage that work to continue.

Finally, let me reiterate the commitment of the United States to close, cooperative relations with Timor-Leste. We will be with you, the people of Timor-Leste, as you forge your own future and as you carve out your own place in the community of nations. Welcome, friends.

**The President**: I give the floor to the representative of Australia.

**Mr. Dauth** (Australia): As it is for the people of East Timor today, it is an emotional moment here for the people of Australia as well. On behalf of the Government and the people of Australia, we want to welcome Timor-Leste into the United Nations family.

It is a special honour for me today to have jointly sponsored, with colleagues from Portugal and Indonesia, resolution 57/3, which formalizes Timor-Leste's United Nations membership. That Timor-Leste stands here today as a United Nations Member State is, more than anything else, testament to the resolve, strength and courage of the East Timorese people, and it is a great pleasure for us all to see such an impressive delegation from East Timor with us today. It points also to the exceptional work of the United Nations and of United-Nations-authorized missions. This has been a great success story for the United Nations, and it is fitting therefore that Timor-Leste should join the Organization that was crucial in bringing stability, order and renewed hope to its people.

Australia will continue to play a leading role in the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor and as a bilateral friend and partner to Timor-Leste. We appeal to others in the international community to remain committed as well.

Australia and Timor-Leste are neighbours forever. From our perspective, we will always be good neighbours.

**The President**: I give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

**Mr. Hidayat** (Indonesia): Allow me to begin by expressing our sincerest appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this historic meeting of the General Assembly to admit the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as the 191st Member of the United Nations. On this glorious occasion for the Government and the people of the newborn State, we are deeply honoured to share in their moment of joy. Indeed, the presence of President Xanana Gusmão in our midst today lends powerful expression to this momentous occasion, as his country takes its rightful place among the community of nations.

As Timor-Leste's closest neighbour, Indonesia would like to express its sincere congratulations to its Government and its people. Indonesia is, of course, proud to have been one the initiators, together with Australia and Portugal, of the draft resolution to admit East Timor as a Member of the United Nations.

Four months ago, on the eve of Timor-Leste's independence, President Megawati Soekarnoputri visited Dili to help cement the new and promising relationship between our two countries. Likewise, the State visit of President Xanana Gusmão to Jakarta in early July this year greatly helped strengthen that growing bond. Since those two milestone visits, our countries have embarked on a strong partnership, which is evident in the increasing number of concrete and mutually beneficial achievements. One such event

that has greatly bolstered the new relationship is the establishment of the Joint Commission, a forum for discussing pertinent issues and searching for mutually beneficial answers to issues of common interest.

In a similar vein, I see continuing progress in such undertakings as my Government's initiative to hold the first ministerial meeting of the Southwest Pacific Dialogue. That dialogue, which will take place early next month, is designed to facilitate the discussion of issues of common interest and concern to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and four other friendly countries on issues such as economic cooperation and transnational crime, including terrorism and people-smuggling.

All those steps are part of a number of tangible efforts to build stronger relationships bilaterally and regionally between Indonesia and Timor-Leste, which will augur well for the future. The courage of the leaders and the peoples of both countries to step forward to construct a future on the basis of those objectives should be applauded. We are confident that the international community cherishes the new and forward-looking spirit of cooperation. However, we are fully aware that our brothers and sisters in Timor-Leste are facing daunting challenges, especially in the areas of capacity-building, education, health and other basic services, and, of course, poverty eradication. To that end, Indonesia is ready to extend its collaboration, including through South-South cooperation.

In conclusion, let me once again, on behalf of the Government and people of Indonesia, express our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Government and people of East Timor on this auspicious occasion.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil, who will speak on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

**Mr. Fonseca** (Brazil): I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) to welcome Timor-Leste into this Organization. Ours is a warm and wholehearted welcome from countries that, beyond a common language and culture, also share with Timor-Leste a firm commitment to the principles of democracy, liberty, justice, peace and universalism.

The country's admission into the membership of the United Nations represents another accomplishment of the brave Timorese people in their long, heroic struggle for self-determination. The accession of Timor-Leste is one more accomplishment in the success story that this Organization helped to bring about. Barely five months ago, we were gathering in the Security Council to celebrate its independence. More recently, in July, Brazil had the honour of hosting a summit of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, in which our Community had the pleasure of receiving Timor-Leste in our midst.

The admission of new Members is a special moment for the Organization itself, a moment in which we rekindle the wishes and hopes placed in the United Nations as an effective instrument for the resolution of challenges that lie ahead, especially those which, given the global scope, can be addressed only through multilateral channels. It is also a confirmation of the universality of the values that brought us together and, in that sense, the confirmation of our commitments to these values.

In the case of Timor-Leste, though, this is complemented by a feeling of accomplishment and of having contributed to this Organization through the very existence of the partner we now welcome into our collective home. The critical role played by the United Nations in the historic birth of an independent Timor-Leste is a vivid example that the United Nations can harness political will and resources — financial and human resources — effectively, thus making a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable.

The story of the independence of Timor-Leste must serve as an inspiration for us to muster the will to tackle the challenges that remain on the international agenda. The remarkable achievement of independence does not conclude the obligations of the international community towards that country. The tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in Timor-Leste are far from over. The success of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) will require the same level of political commitment that characterized the support of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). Timor-Leste is a developing country in need of international assistance. In this context, it becomes even more pressing to continue to bring in income-generating projects, maintain the flow of international aid and create the conditions for sustainable development.

Within the means available, the member countries of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries will continue to provide support for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Timor-Leste, bearing in mind the need for financial, material and technical assistance.

Before concluding, Sir, allow me to pay tribute to my fellow countryman, Sergio Vieira de Mello, who, while serving as the head of UNTAET, played a crucial role on the road to Timor-Leste's independence. Under his competent guidance, an unprecedented success in the history of the United Nations has been achieved.

A word of recognition and admiration also is due to President Xanana Gusmão, a hero in the struggle for independence, who has now been trusted with the task of guiding Timor-Leste in its early steps as a full member of the international community. We also want to salute Prime Minister Alkatiri, Foreign Minister Ramos-Horta and Bishop Belo, remarkable leaders of a brave people.

Welcome, Timor-Leste.

(*spoke in Portuguese*)

Welcome, Timor-Leste.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representative of Saint Lucia, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

**Mr. Huntley** (Saint Lucia): As Chair of the Special Committee of 24 on decolonization, I have the honour to welcome the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the membership of this Organization and to convey the profound pleasure of the members of the Committee in so doing.

On this day, momentous for the people of East Timor, we cannot help but recall the years when their representatives appeared time and again before the Special Committee here in New York to present their case for decolonization. We admire and respect the resolve of the people of Timor-Leste in search of their objective.

And so, today, as they are finally free to take their seat as an independent State in the United Nations family, we believe that, with similar purposefulness, their contribution to our deliberations will enrich this body.

In welcoming the newest nation into the halls of the United Nations, we should not forget that Timor-Leste is still in the infancy of its development and nation-building. The international community has played an important role in the long journey of the East Timorese to full membership in the United Nations. Both the international community and the United Nations must now be a part of the process of the development of the new nation and assist this process by providing unremitting and generous support. Helping Timor-Leste to stand on its own as a viable economy is a debt that we owe its people.

Today is also a significant day for the members of the Special Committee of 24, for it marks the confirmation of the removal of one more territory from its list of non-self-governing territories. The de-listing of Timor-Leste has left 16 other non-self-governing territories on the list of the Special Committee as territories yet to exercise their right to self-determination. The majority of these are very small islands, and because they are islands that are so small, and so remote, we sense that the international community prefers to remain indifferent to them.

Let us not let the special circumstances or the fading of the glamour that marked the United Nations' decolonization drive four decades ago obscure the right to self-determination of these territories. Secretary-General Kofi Annan reminded us earlier this year that there should be no room for colonialism in the twenty-first century and that all efforts should be made to close this chapter of history once and for all.

I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Special Committee, to encourage all Administering Powers to work hand in hand with the Special Committee of 24 to attain this goal. In doing so, however, we must remember that what must be of cardinal importance is that the freely expressed wishes and the interests of the people of those territories must always be paramount in determining their future mode of governance out of the three options prescribed by the United Nations. To do otherwise would be to sow the seeds of conflict.

Therefore, as we welcome Timor-Leste here today, let us do so with a commitment renewed by the joy of this occasion to ensure that within this Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the peoples of the remaining non-self-governing territories shall also peacefully exercise their

right to self-determination with the full support of the international community.

And so I say again: congratulations and welcome, Timor-Leste, welcome!

**Address by Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**

**The President**: The Assembly will now hear an address by His Excellency Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

*Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, was escorted into the General Assembly Hall.*

**The President**: On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the great pleasure to welcome to the United Nations the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, and to invite him to address the General Assembly.

**President Gusmão** (*spoke in Portuguese; English text furnished by the delegation*): Since the 1960s, Timor-Leste had been on the list of non-self-governing territories, with the right to exercise self-determination and independence in accordance with its people's aspirations for freedom. Many countries have in fact achieved their independence since that time.

The universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations were the points of reference for our actions, both as part of the resistance within the country and during the long journey made with confidence and determination by the Timorese people side by side with the peoples of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe, and with activists from all over the world. Human rights and the fundamental right of peoples to decide their own destinies are an expression of the struggle for the emancipation of every human being as an individual, as part of a society and, of course, as a people — in this case, as the Timorese people that we are proud to be.

In this great Hall of the peoples of the entire world, where peoples are heard through their representatives and where we had the privilege of attending the Millennium Assembly, since 1975, Timor-Leste has been present in minds and hearts, in political debates, in geo-strategic discussions and in the resolutions adopted. Timorese diplomats — led by the guerrilla of diplomacy, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta — heads of State or Government, the representatives of friendly nations and of organizations of international solidarity worked tirelessly as they roamed the corridors of this home of the community of nations. During the terms of office of Kurt Waldheim, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Kofi Annan, the Security Council, the Special Committee of 24, the Commission on Human Rights and others have kept their doors open to listen to the voice of the people of Timor-Leste.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan decisively took into his hands not only the suffering but, above all, the aspirations of our people. People such as Francesc Vendrell and Tamrat Samuel, who worked on the question of Timor-Leste from the outset, as well as, subsequently, Ambassador Jamsheed Marker, deserve our appreciation along with other staff members of this institution. They exemplified dedication and promoted dialogue in the search for a solution. The outcome of that effort to defend the Charter and the freedom of peoples was the Agreement of 5 May 1999.

It is often said that it is important to start a process because doing so entails defining intentions and objectives. But, particularly in a struggle, the true value of action and work is found in the results. The popular consultation carried out by the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) under the leadership of Ian Martin was the first democratic and conscientious act of our people. First, it was conscientious because it was conducted in a totally adverse and uncontrollable climate. Secondly, it was conscientious because it revealed to the world the courage of the people of Timor-Leste. And, lastly, it was conscientious because our people rejected violence, the idea of conflict between brothers and the notion of civil war.

Our people struggled for their freedom for more than two decades. The long and difficult struggle attained its objectives, and the people of Timor-Leste were not overly concerned by the use of violence and the perpetuation of the conflict. The day of liberation, 30 August 1999, was the day of democracy. Since that day, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, led by Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, has made every effort to strengthen the democratic awareness of our people as the basis for genuine independence. As a consequence, on 30 August 2001

the first elections were held for the Constituent Assembly, with presidential elections held in April 2002.

The presence of the Secretary-General and of more than 90 official delegations from around the world — including the current President of the General Assembly, Mr. Jan Kavan, who at the time was the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic — made 20 May 2002 a memorable day in our history. The United Nations and the international community at large did justice to the international principles and the universal values that uphold the existence of nations and peoples by recognizing their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence.

We feel greatly honoured and moved by the statesmanship shown by Portugal, Indonesia and Australia in jointly proposing the draft resolution that has admitted us as the 191st Member of the United Nations.

I have the privilege today of representing before the General Assembly a small people of great dignity and extraordinary historic bravery who are driven by a total commitment to the present and filled with great confidence for the future. Present among us as our special guest is our most beloved brother, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ximenes Belo. Despite his wish to be here today to share this moment with us, our dear friend Basilio do Nascimento had to remain in our country out of his sense of responsibility.

I represent a people who have already defined their vision for development for the next 20 years. That vision expresses their most profound aspirations with regard to the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, the achievement of better standards of living — to which every citizen has a right — and their own involvement in the development process. We are aware of the fact that there will be no economic or social development in our country if we do not establish the most elementary bases of democracy. The role of women and a strong civil society are essential to ensuring that participatory democracy at the level of local Government guarantee both social justice and the rights of citizens.

More than just coming here as the head of State, the honour I feel stems from representing the courage of the women of my country, the high spirits aroused by the sacrifice of our men, the determination of our young people and the smiles of the children of the "crocodile nation". According to our legend, today we have been transformed. We tread firmly on our land and sail safely through our sea, for we have been recognized as a sovereign and independent nation and as a member of the international community.

Having emerged from decades of struggle for our independence and 20 years of suffering, what our people most yearn for now is peace and stability. Only a tolerant and just society can create a climate of much-needed stability, and only a tolerant and just society will know how to love peace.

Timor-Leste expresses its concern over the increasing violence in the Middle East. We will not point fingers or attempt to identify culprits. We prefer to believe that a solution exists and that a resolution can be found to this conflict, which has already shed so much blood and taken so many lives. The Palestinian people have a right to self-determination, independence, peace and dignity. We believe that it is neither moral nor ethical to deny the right to freedom, peace and dignity to this extraordinary people.

Timor-Leste and the State of Israel have established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level and will explore forms of mutually beneficial cooperation. Timor-Leste declares itself ready to recognize the State of Palestine and to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with the legitimate authorities of the Palestinian people.

Western Sahara is yet another entity that is regrettably excluded from most major international forums. Timor-Leste shares with our Saharawi brothers a remarkable amount of history. The inalienable right of the Saharawi people to self-determination was recognized by the United Nations eight years before that of Timor-Leste. Yet, while the case of Timor-Leste is now seen as a United Nations success story, that of Western Sahara continues to be stalled by successive obstacles. At this moment, when we are reaffirming our freedom and independence, we urge the resumption of the United Nations plan to hold a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara. We can put an end to this unjust situation only if a fair, free and democratic consultation is held, such as that which took place in Timor-Leste.

The people of Timor-Leste also express their support for the peace process in Afghanistan and, in particular, for President Hamid Karzai, and we extend our wishes for success at this challenging time.

Recently, Timor-Leste attended the third Summit of African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) heads of State or Government, held in Fiji. This made us more aware of our need to actively participate in groups of developing countries that share common problems and similar advantages and backgrounds. There is much we can learn from and exchange with subregional partners within a group such as the ACP.

Regardless of our relationship with the Pacific, we are geographically close to South-East Asia and also feel proud of being part of that region. Over the past couple of years, we have intensified our contacts in the region. Today, we are pleased to testify to the committed work and unwavering commitment of our Asian brothers in the rebuilding of Timor-Leste, as well as with respect to the requests for peacekeeping forces and for various professional personnel made by the successive United Nations missions deployed in our country.

We recently participated in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ministerial meeting held in Brunei, and will continue to participate as invited observers in the organization's initiatives.

Last July, we became a full member of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, a group of countries that share a common language, history and culture which contributed to the shaping of our resistance identity. That is also a family of nations to which we are bound by ties of affection.

We join the world in its concerns at intolerance between cultures and religions and at the systematic use of violence, which cannot but breed misunderstanding and hatred, further distancing peoples and constraining dialogue.

We speak out, with the rest of the world, on the war on terrorism. Despite the enormous demands of our independence process and the developing nature of our country, we will not ease our vigilance and determination in uprooting the extremism and radicalism that promote or contribute to terror against innocents. Timor-Leste will never be a sanctuary for those who terrorize innocent civilians, whether on behalf of religion or ideology, or in any other guise.

We join the rest of the world in its commitment to fight against people-smuggling and the trafficking of arms and drugs. Transnational networks focusing on such repugnant activities have particularly affected our region. We will not permit our territory or our exclusive economic zone to be used to perpetuate the grief caused by the ambition of a few who hide behind profits made out of the misery of so many.

We join the rest of the world in its commitment to adopt comprehensive policies on the democratization of societies, the respect for civic and political rights, the need for good governance and the involvement of civil society, and on the adoption of stern policies against corruption. We join the rest of the world in its concern for the misery, hunger and disease in developing countries, which affect more than half of the planet's population.

There must be a steadfast commitment by the developing countries to adopt the correct policies to fight poverty. However, other important factors must be taken into account. We join those calling on the rich countries of the North to increase their contribution to overseas development assistance to at least 0.7 per cent of their gross national product. We join those calling for writing off the debt of the poor countries as an unavoidable measure. We join those calling for rescheduling the debt of the most heavily indebted countries, and investing part of the debt in education and public health. We join those calling for greater access to the markets of the rich countries, through the lifting of trade barriers and the easing and simplification of customs rules and regulations.

The European Union "everything but guns" cooperation policy is an example that should be followed by other rich countries. But the policy on agricultural subsidies has placed poorer countries at a great disadvantage and has left them in continued poverty. We, the poorest country in Asia, now also face the daunting challenge of globalization.

We have adopted a policy of reconciliation among all Timorese, based on justice. Nevertheless, to honour justice, our effort is focused on the eradication of all feelings of hatred and revenge, because sound reconciliation will come about only when there is greater social justice in Timorese society.

Our destiny is to live in peace. This means that we must, from the outset, lay the foundations of a new society where harmony, tolerance and solidarity prevail in the mind and spirit of every citizen. We are aware that we will be serving the interests of our people only if we honour our international commitments by signing the relevant conventions and treaties which not only

safeguard our sovereignty and our interests but also respect the sovereignty and interests of other peoples and States, particularly those of our region. I refer in particular to the Convention Against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and those on the use of chemical weapons, nuclear weapons and landmines.

As the people of the first new country of the millennium, and given the historic process leading to independence, the Maubere people are committed to social and economic development, to strengthening their culture and traditions and to being actively engaged in a policy of dialogue, cooperation and friendship with all the other peoples of the world. The people of Timor-Leste firmly believe in a future where world peace will reign. The people of Timor-Leste are convinced that peace has a price. That price is the freedom of people, tolerance among societies of different cultures and beliefs, and cooperation and friendship between peoples.

International Day of Peace, 21 September, was the dream come true of one man, and it shook the conscience of today's world, where humanity lives side by side with insecurity. We believe that peace is the most sacred objective of humanity. We urge all human beings — from the largest urban centres to remote farms and plantations, from social and professional organizations, artists and athletes to civil society and business people, from groups in conflict to politicians and cabinet members — to concentrate, together, greater energy on the need for peace in the world.

I wish to put forward a proposal to declare a World Peace Week, to be observed from 21 to 27 September each year. During that week, debates, conferences and workshops to discuss peace would be held throughout the world. Peace would no longer be a theoretical concept, but would rather be an issue for in-depth reflection on relevant themes such as poverty, democracy, human rights and justice. Thus, individuals would truly comprehend that genuine peace can emerge only from the peace within each citizen.

In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to my people. The international community, politicians and academics often speak of our country as a United Nations success story. The commitment of the international community — namely, the United Nations and its bodies the General Assembly and the Security Council — is unquestioned. That collective success is equally due to the role and the engagement of the United Nations specialized agencies, of the World Bank, of the International Monetary Fund and of the Asian Development Bank, as well as of the hundreds of United Nations Volunteers and international non-governmental organizations, in particular during the emergency and humanitarian relief periods. Today, we wish to express our recognition of, and our profound gratitude for, their commitment and their continued action in my country.

At the core of that success were, above all, our people. By refusing to go down the path of violence, even when provoked; by exercising their rights in a democratic and civic-minded manner, even if it meant risking their own lives; and by looking to the future with hope for the certainty of freedom, our people proved to the world that they were worthy of respect, and thus gained credibility and the admiration of all. We owe the success to which all were committed to the people of Timor-Leste.

**The President**: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste for the statement he has just made.

*Mr. Kay Rala Zanana Gusmão, President of the Republic of Timor-Leste, was escorted from the General Assembly Hall.*

**The President**: I should like to inform Member States that the flag of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste will be raised at a ceremony that will take place in front of the delegates' entrance immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

**Agenda item 117**

**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations**

**Report of the Fifth Committee** (A/57/429)

**The President**: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee that is before the Assembly today.

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

> *The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 57/4).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 117.

**Agenda item 15**

**Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs**

**(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council**

**The President**: The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2002.

The five outgoing non-permanent members are the following: Colombia, Ireland, Mauritius, Norway and Singapore. Those five States cannot be re-elected. Their names, therefore, should not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include in the year 2003 the following States: Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guinea, Mexico and the Syrian Arab Republic. The names of those States, therefore, should also not appear on the ballot papers.

Of the five non-permanent members that will remain in office in the year 2003, three are from Africa and Asia, one is from Eastern Europe and one is from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: two from Africa and Asia, one from Latin America and the Caribbean and two from Western Europe and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that, of the two States to be elected from Africa and Asia, one should be from Africa and one from Asia.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, that receive the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected.

In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairmen of the respective regional groups of the following.

For the two vacant seats from among the African and Asian States, there are two endorsed candidates: Angola and Pakistan.

For the vacant seat from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there is one endorsed candidate: Chile.

For the two vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, there are two endorsed candidates: Germany and Spain.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall proceed now to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B" and "C" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African and Asian States, the names of the two States for which they wish to vote; on the ballot papers marked "B", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote; and on the ballot papers marked "C", for the Western European and other States, the names of the two States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a ballot paper which do not belong to that region will not be counted.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Luke Sookocheff (Canada), Mr. José Sosa (Dominican Republic), Mr. Kai Sauer (Finland), Mr. Gebhard Kandanga (Namibia), Mr. Faisal Al-Athba (Qatar) and Mr. Pavlo Orel (Ukraine) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

I now suspend the meeting for thirty minutes.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 12.25 p.m.*

**The President**: The result of the voting is as follows:

*Group A — African and Asian States*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of ballot papers: | 183 |
| Number of invalid ballots: | 0 |
| Number of valid ballots: | 183 |
| Abstentions: | 1 |
| Number of members voting: | 182 |
| Required two-thirds majority: | 122 |
| Number of votes obtained: | |
| Angola | 181 |
| Pakistan | 172 |
| India | 1 |

*Group B — Latin American and Caribbean States*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of ballot papers: | 183 |
| Number of invalid ballots: | 0 |
| Number of valid ballots: | 183 |
| Abstentions: | 5 |
| Number of members voting: | 178 |
| Required two-thirds majority: | 119 |
| Number of votes obtained: | |
| Chile | 178 |

*Group C — Western European and other States*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of ballot papers: | 183 |
| Number of invalid ballots: | 0 |
| Number of valid ballots: | 183 |
| Abstentions | 0 |
| Number of members voting: | 183 |
| Required two-thirds majority: | 122 |
| Number of votes obtained: | |
| Germany | 180 |
| Spain | 180 |

*Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the following States were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning 1 January 2003: Angola, Chile, Germany, Pakistan and Spain.*

**The President**: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Security Council.

I would also like to thank the tellers for their assistance in the election.

We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 15.

**Programme of work**

**The President**: I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/INF/57/3, which contains a tentative programme of work and schedule of plenary meetings for the period from 27 September to 10 December 2002 and which has been distributed in the Hall.

I should also like to remind members that the list of speakers for items listed in document A/INF/57/3 are open. Furthermore, I should like to announce that the General Committee shall meet on Friday, 4 October, at 9.15 a.m., to consider a request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session which is contained in document A/57/232.

I will, in due course, keep the Assembly informed of any other additions or changes to the programme of work.

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*

United Nations A/57/PV.21

# General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

*Official Records*

**21**st plenary meeting
Thursday, 3 October 2002, 10 a.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Jan Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 119** *(continued)*

**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations** (A/57/440/Add.1)

**The President**: I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/57/440/Add.1, which contains a letter from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly, in which he informs the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communication contained in document A/57/440, Vanuatu has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in this document?

*It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 17**

**Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments**

**(f) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit** (A/57/107)

**The President**: As indicated in document A/57/107, the General Assembly is required, during the fifty-seventh session, to appoint a member to fill the vacancy on the Joint Inspection Unit that will arise from the expiration of the term of office on 31 December 2003 of Mr. Armando Duque González of Colombia.

As also indicated in document A/57/107, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the President of the General Assembly shall consult with Member States to draw up a list of countries, in this case, one country, which would be requested to propose a candidate for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

After holding the necessary consultations, I should like to communicate to the Assembly the information received from the Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States that the Group has endorsed Trinidad and Tobago to propose a vacancy from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

In accordance with article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, Trinidad and Tobago will therefore be requested to submit the name of a candidate and the curriculum vitae highlighting the candidate's relevant qualifications for the task ahead.

After holding the appropriate consultations described in article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, I will propose a qualified candidate to the Assembly for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

02-61851 (E)

**Agenda item 15** (*continued*)

**Election to fill vacancies in principal organs**

**(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council**

**The President**: The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2002.

The 18 outgoing members are: Angola, Austria, Bahrain, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Fiji, France, Germany, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Spain, the Sudan and Suriname.

As of 1 January 2003, the following States will continue to be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

The names of these 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States that will remain members of the Council after 1 January 2003, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, three from Asian States, one from Eastern European States, four from Latin American and Caribbean States and five from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, who receive the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairman of the respective regional groups that for the five vacant seats from among the African States, there are five endorsed candidates, namely Benin, the Congo, Kenya, Mozambique and Senegal.

For the three vacant seats from among the Asian States, there are five candidates, namely Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia and Saudi Arabia.

For the one vacant seat from among the Eastern European States, there is one endorsed candidate, namely Azerbaijan.

For the four vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there are four endorsed candidates, namely Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica and Nicaragua.

For the five vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, there are five endorsed candidates, namely France, Germany, Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

I should like to seek the usual cooperation of representatives during the time of the conduct of the election. Please be reminded that, during the voting process, all campaigning should cease in the General Assembly Hall. This means in particular that, once the voting has begun, no more campaign material can be distributed inside the Hall. All representatives are also requested to remain at their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of States for which they wish to vote.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "A" for the African States the names of the five States for which they wish to vote, on the ballot papers marked "B" for the Asian States the names of the three States for which they vote, on the ballot papers marked "C" for the Eastern European States the name of the one State for which they wish to vote, on the ballot papers marked "D" for the Latin American and Caribbean States the names of the four States for which they wish to vote and on the ballot papers marked "E" for the Western European and other States the names of the five States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a b0allot paper that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Babikir (Chad), Ms. Crichlow (Guyana), Mr. Cajuste (Haiti), Mr. Terrazzani (Monaco), Mrs. Garcia (Philippines) and Mr. Staszak (Poland) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

*The meeting was suspended at 10.40 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.*

**The President**: The result of the voting is as follows:

*Group A — African States*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of ballot papers: | 182 |
| Number of invalid ballots: | 1 |
| Number of valid ballots: | 181 |
| Abstentions: | 3 |
| Number of members voting: | 178 |
| Required two-thirds majority: | 119 |
| Number of votes obtained: | |
| Senegal | 176 |
| Mozambique | 171 |
| Benin | 169 |
| Congo | 163 |
| Kenya | 160 |
| Angola | 4 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 3 |
| Burkina Faso | 1 |
| Cameroon | 1 |
| Sudan | 1 |
| Tunisia | 1 |

*Group B — Asian States*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of ballot papers | 182 |
| Number of invalid ballots: | 0 |
| Number of valid ballots: | 182 |
| Abstentions: | 1 |
| Number of members voting: | 181 |
| Required two-thirds majority: | 121 |
| Number of votes obtained: | |
| Saudi Arabia | 140 |
| Japan | 133 |
| Malaysia | 123 |
| Mongolia | 64 |
| Lebanon | 61 |
| Bahrain | 1 |
| Fiji | 1 |
| Jordan | 1 |
| Turkmenistan | 1 |
| United Arab Emirates | 1 |

*Group C — Eastern European States*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of ballot papers: | 182 |
| Number of invalid ballots: | 3 |
| Number of valid ballots: | 179 |
| Abstentions: | 2 |
| Number of members voting: | 177 |
| Required two-thirds majority: | 118 |
| Number of votes obtained: | |
| Azerbaijan | 177 |

*Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of ballot papers: | 182 |
| Number of invalid ballots: | 1 |
| Number of valid ballots: | 181 |
| Abstentions: | 0 |
| Number of members voting: | 181 |
| Required two-thirds majority: | 121 |
| Number of votes obtained: | |
| Jamaica | 178 |
| Ecuador | 174 |
| Cuba | 170 |
| Nicaragua | 159 |
| Suriname | 2 |
| Costa Rica | 1 |
| Mexico | 1 |
| Venezuela | 1 |

*Group E — Western European and other States*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of ballot papers | 182 |
| Number of invalid ballots: | 1 |
| Number of valid ballots: | 181 |
| Abstentions: | 1 |
| Number of members voting: | 180 |
| Required two-thirds majority: | 120 |
| Number of votes obtained: | |
| Germany | 179 |
| Greece | 177 |
| France | 173 |
| Ireland | 164 |
| Portugal | 163 |
| Spain | 1 |

*Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Azerbaijan, Benin, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Portugal, Saudi Arabia and Senegal were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning 1 January 2003.*

**The President**: I congratulate those States that have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council. I would also like to thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 15.

**Programme of work**

**The President**: I should like to make an announcement concerning agenda item 21, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

I have requested Mr. Hubert Wurth, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, who during previous sessions so ably coordinated the informal consultations on draft resolutions under the same agenda item, to assist once again in the same capacity at this session, and Ambassador Wurth has graciously accepted.

May I request those delegations intending to submit draft resolutions under agenda item 21 to do so as early as possible in order to allow time, if need be, for negotiations with a view to reaching consensus on the draft resolutions.

Representatives are requested to consult the *Journal* for the announcement of the time, date and venue for the first meeting of the informal consultations. I should also like to remind members that agenda item 21 and its sub-items (a) to (c) will be considered on Monday, 25 November.

*The meeting rose at 12 noon.*

United Nations A/57/PV.22

# General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

*Official Records*

**22**nd plenary meeting
Monday, 4 October 2002, 10.00 am
New York

*President:* Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

**Agenda item 44 and agenda item 10** (*continued*)

**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**

**Report of the Secretary-General** (A/57/270 and A/57/270/Corr.1)

**Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization** (A/57/1)

**The President**: Members will recall that the Secretary-General presented his report to the General Assembly at the 2nd plenary meeting, on 12 September 2002.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General to present his report on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

**The Secretary-General**: Let met begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to present to the Assembly the first of my annual reports on progress achieved by the United Nations system and Member States towards implementing the Millennium Declaration. I shall do so briefly, because I believe the report speaks for itself. In fact I cannot do better than repeat to you what I wrote in the concluding chapter:

> "The record of the international community in the first two years of implementing the Millennium Declaration is, at best, mixed. Some Millennium goals have benefited from the hard decisions and courageous reforms that are needed. Others have not. In the remaining 13 years, progress must be made on a much broader front. Otherwise, the ringing words of the Declaration will serve only as grim reminders of human needs neglected and promises unmet." (*A/57/270, para. 113*)

At a time when grave decisions have to be taken about threats to international peace and security, and the best way to deal with them, some of us may be tempted to put the broader and longer-term agenda of the Millennium Declaration on the back burner. I implore you to resist that temptation. Nothing, indeed, could be more contrary to the spirit of the United Nations and its Charter, in which the goal of saving future generations from the scourge of war is so closely linked to that of promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

The United Nations must be able to confront immediate threats to peace and security without slackening its efforts on behalf of those who struggle to survive on less than $1 a day, without clean water or sanitation, and go to bed hungry every night.

We cannot afford to treat the Millennium Declaration as something to think about tomorrow, or whenever the pressure of business permits. Let us not forget that our heads of State or Government adopted it as an urgent agenda — a list of the things we cannot neglect and most urgently need to change if this new century is to be any better than the last.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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Yet at present we are falling short. What this report shows is that, if we carry on the way we are, most of the pledges made in the Declaration are not going to be fulfilled.

On all our broad objectives — human rights, democracy, good governance, the resolution of conflicts and the special needs of Africa — we are moving too slowly. Unless we can speed things up dramatically, we shall find when we get to 2015 that the words of the Declaration ring hollow.

On progress towards the Millennium Development Goals — the targets which are most precise, and therefore easiest to measure — there are marked differences between regions.

Over the past decade, East Asia has already halved the proportion of people living on $1 or less per day — from 28 per cent to 14 per cent. South Asia, where nearly half the world's poor still live, has seen a more modest drop, from 44 per cent to 37 per cent.

But in Africa, where 10 years ago, 48 per cent of the people were living on $1 a day or less, the figure today is 47 per cent. In 10 years, Africa has managed to cut the proportion only by one forty-eighth. There will have to be a dramatic change if by 2015 — only just over 12 years from now — it is going to be cut by 50 per cent, as we have promised.

The first big test of the Millennium commitment will come in 2005 — little more than two years from now — by which time Member States hope to have achieved parity of girls and boys in primary and secondary schools. I regret to say that it is unlikely to be met. Between 1990 and 2000, the gender gap narrowed only by 25 per cent. And without greater success in placing more girls in school, I fear it will prove even more difficult to reach the other goals.

The Millennium Goals are global, but what will determine whether they are or are not met is what happens in each separate country. And there is no magic formula for reaching them that every country can apply. Each country must find the right mix of policies — one that suits its local conditions — and the people of each country must insist that those policies be applied.

Let no one think that this applies only to developing countries. The developed countries, too, must ensure that no part of their own population falls short of the Millennium Development Goals. And they also have a special global responsibility. They must deliver what they have promised: to open their markets fully to the products of developing countries; to let them compete in the global market on fair terms; and to provide much more generous development assistance. Without these things, many developing countries will be unable to reach the Millennium Goals, however hard they try. In other words, it is not here at the United Nations or by the work of United Nations officials that these Goals can be achieved. They have to be achieved in each of the countries that are represented here, by the efforts of its Government and its people.

That is why I have started a millennium campaign to make the Goals better known throughout the world and to try and mobilize the force of public opinion behind them. I shall deliver my annual global report to the General Assembly each year, but I hope that every developing country, with the help of the United Nations and other international institutions, will also produce its own annual report so that, in each country, the people will know how they are doing. Our hope is that, in this age of democracy, once people know, they will insist on action.

With the Declaration, the road map, the Millennium Development Goals and the decisions taken this year in Monterrey and Johannesburg, we now have an impressive corpus of international commitments, all brought together in a single coherent vision on which all Member States agree.

This vision can become a reality only if all those who have a stake in it play their due part. As I have just said, the decisive action must be taken within and by each Member State, but the international community, and the United Nations in particular, also have an enormous collective stake in the outcome. We must all do our part to ensure that the necessary action really happens, and I personally am fully committed to do so.

This Assembly, which is the most authentic representative of the international community as a whole, has an especially important role to play and, here and now, an important procedural decision to take. Let me urge representatives to follow this process with vigour, but also in an integrated fashion. The Millennium Declaration has given us a big picture. We must not allow that picture to be fragmented and dealt with piecemeal by different processes in different committees. We need to keep the whole of it firmly in

view. Mr. President, I leave that important issue in your capable hands.

**Statement by the President**

**The President**: Today, we open our first joint debate on two very important agenda items: the work of the Organization and the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit. Let me first express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his introduction of both reports and especially for his determination to pursue the goals of the Millennium Declaration. Both reports are comprehensive yet concise, and provide a very good basis for our deliberations.

More than ever, the call for multilateralism in the maintenance of international peace and security resonates through the Organization. The joint concentration of Member States on the fight against international terrorism produced some results throughout the past year. It is necessary, however, to commit ourselves to further strengthening the United Nations legal framework, including a renewed effort to negotiate the comprehensive convention against terrorism.

Despite some positive developments, we have witnessed growing tensions and the escalation of conflicts in many parts of the world. To be more effective in the area of peacekeeping, we must continue to implement its reform measures, including enhancing rapid deployment capabilities, taking action on lessons learned and generating sufficient resources, to name just a few.

Our efforts should, however, first and foremost concentrate on preventing conflicts before they arise. The recently increased attention to the concept of prevention of armed conflict is therefore proper. The United Nations can contribute through effective and timely use of the existing preventive tools, such as early warning systems, mediation and political guidance, good offices, fact-finding and goodwill missions, or preventive deployment and disarmament.

Equally important are policy advice and development cooperation in the areas that are crucial for conflict prevention, such as good governance, capacity-building and poverty eradication. I believe that the resumption of the work, on the initiative of the General Assembly, in drafting the draft resolution on conflict prevention will ensure that this topic remains high on the agenda of the current session. I do hope that, during our presidency, we will be able to reach a consensus on that important draft resolution. We will definitely not spare our energy to achieve this goal.

During the fifty-seventh session, I am particularly determined to devote special attention to the issue of the coordinated and integrated follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations international conferences of the past decade, especially the Millennium Summit and the Monterrey and Johannesburg summits. I am convinced that such an approach will yield a positive and effective input to a more coherent and relevant review of the implementation of those conferences. In this respect, I rely on Members' support and active participation in the work of the plenary and Main Committees that will result in a synergy of different views to formulate a holistic approach to the follow-up of the conferences.

Allow me to add a few comments on the report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. The report provides a good overview of the accomplishments and shortcomings on the road towards attaining the millennium goals. The report concludes that sufficient progress has been achieved in a few countries only and that prospects for meeting the Millennium Development Goals are, at best, mixed. I hope that our debate will help us to identify gaps and to formulate strategies for the future, as spelled out in the resolution 55/162.

The Millennium Development Goals became the basis of the economic and social policy of the United Nations and international development cooperation. Their implementation must remain our top priority. Now, with the first report on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration presented, it is time to engage ourselves in the search for the most effective approach in the follow-up mechanism, formulating a set of requirements for the monitoring and review of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to ensure due results at the due time.

We have to keep in mind that the credibility of the United Nations is based not only on its ability to articulate political goals but also — and primarily — on its ability to mobilize the political will for their implementation.

**Mr. Manis** (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is our pleasure to thank Secretary-General Kofi Annan for

having responded to General Assembly resolutions by issuing these two important reports (A/57/1 and A/57/270 and A/57/270/Corr.1) to set out for Member States the vision, and status of the implementation, of declared commitments.

The international community and the peoples of the world celebrated the Assembly's adoption of the Millennium Declaration at the end of 2000. It was a unique and historic event setting out goals and approaches. It outlined how we were to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, such as economic and social underdevelopment, extreme poverty, deadly diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and other important challenges to international peace and security such as terrorism, organized crime and armed conflicts. The Declaration also called for necessary attention to be given to the very important issue of the reform of the Organization, which is the principal mechanism for carrying out the activities, efforts and programmes of the international community in the interest of its peoples.

One of the most important and needed reforms — and on which tangible progress has not been made since the Millennium Summit — is Security Council reform, including the expansion of its permanent and non-permanent membership in order to make the Council more representative of the United Nations membership. The Council's working methods should also be reformed in order to make Council resolutions more democratic and transparent. It is regrettable to note that the Working Group on Security Council reform has held meetings since January 1994 without making any significant progress.

The challenge facing us today is to turn globalization into a positive force and to use information technology in the service of development. However, we note that the gap between the countries of the North and of the South is continually widening and that the ongoing digital divide reflects the utter failure of international and regional policies in the fields of development cooperation and assistance. In spite of the many international conferences held, in particular the Monterrey and Johannesburg conferences, the gap between the rich and the poor is still widening. We urgently need to establish an international economic system that is more democratic and just and which grants poor countries preferential conditions for trade with rich countries, in addition to an increase in official development assistance and external debt relief for poor countries.

We would like to welcome the purely African initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the General Assembly's decision, taken last month, to support it. We also welcome the final review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which should lead to a willingness on the part of the international community to assist the African continent, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions.

The social and economic situation of the least developed countries requires that the international community give special and serious attention to those countries in order to help them defeat poverty, hunger and disease. In that respect, we call for the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action.

We would like to draw attention to the Assembly's decision to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as a follow-up mechanism to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. We hope that the High Representative will receive the support he needs to carry out his duties.

Measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations require our full attention and support. In this regard, we welcome the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the United Nations system through an agenda for further change. We support that report (A/57/387) and the ideas and initiatives that it contains to better enable the Organization to effectively face new challenges and to respond to the aspirations of all peoples.

We pay tribute to the success achieved by United Nations peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan. We welcome the substantial cooperation and coordination between the Organization and other relevant bodies. We look forward to the report that the Secretary-General has promised on the introduction of programme and institutional improvements to make the Millennium Declaration an instrument that is real, easy to implement and that achieves concrete results.

We agree with the Secretary-General that fundamental human rights, economic, social and

cultural rights and basic freedoms form an integral whole. Human rights can be realized only through the elimination of poverty and the improvement of economies. In that regard, we affirm our rejection of selectivity, double standards and the politicization of human rights issues. We call for providing the resources necessary to enable countries to deal with their problems without prior conditions or ulterior motives. We welcome the outcome of the Durban Conference against Racism. We hope that the report of the Secretary-General, through the necessary financing, will lead to tangible results.

We value the quick United Nations response to the events of 11 September 2001 and the adoption of decisive resolutions to combat international terrorism. After devoting an entire week to consideration of that issue, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/1 by consensus. The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The international community has responded expeditiously to all calls to combat terrorism, but many States have also called for an international conference to be held to define terrorism and to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate rights of peoples to self-defence in confronting external aggression. Sudan has condemned terrorism in all its forms and has cooperated with all international efforts to combat it. We have ratified 11 relevant conventions, and we look forward to a definition of terrorism that will help us achieve all United Nations initiatives.

**Mr. De Rivero** (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Secretary-General for the reports we have received.

We share the Secretary-General's mixed feelings about the Organization's achievements and the current world situation. Indeed, during the past year, we noted with satisfaction important progress in the fight against international impunity with the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC). There has also been progress in landmine eradication and in the fight against terrorism, the Security Council having established a committee on that issue. There has also been progress in humanitarian assistance and a better organized effort to cope with natural disasters. But, like the Secretary-General, we also believe that much remains to be done to achieve a world free of threats, violence and poverty.

The Secretary-General reminds us of the deep disparity that exists between the logic of disarmament and the logic of development. Worldwide, $839 billion is spent annually on military expenditures, while official development assistance amounts to only $51 billion a year. The international community could eliminate the $70 billion deficit in financing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 just by reducing annual military expenditures by less than 10 per cent.

In our view, that situation is an aberration. The major threats to international security today are generated by the asymmetrical conflict created by international terrorism, transnational crime and drug trafficking. Similarly, world stability is continuously threatened by extreme poverty, environmental deterioration, global warming and the economic stagnation of the majority of the countries referred to as developing countries; in the past decade only 17 such countries have achieved growth of 5 per cent, which is the minimum expected to reduce poverty. Sometimes we wonder why most of the countries of this Organization are referred to as developing countries when they are not developing; they continue to be underdeveloped. Therefore, controlling that problem should be one of the main goals of this Organization.

Similarly, we believe that the situation will not be corrected by increasing military budgets, nuclear systems and sophisticated conventional weapons. That is unrealistic. Not exempt from this appraisal are the underdeveloped States, which maintain disproportionately large armies and become mired in arms races, though they are faced with virtually non-existent prospects of war. Many such countries shirk their most basic responsibilities to guarantee democratic, free and just societies.

For those reasons, Peru has reduced its military budget by 20 per cent and has been promoting concrete initiatives in South America aimed at addressing that reality, such as the recent adoption of the Andean Charter for Peace and Security and the creation of a South American zone of peace and cooperation, by which we propose to reduce military expenditures in order to redirect them to the fight against poverty and social development. There is also the initiative to negotiate a reduction in the number of missiles in Latin America, as well as to strengthen confidence-building measures and transparency mechanisms in Latin America

In Peru's view, that type of initiative, which we hope can be reproduced in other regions, is fully in keeping with the creation of a culture of peace and what is called structural prevention, based specifically on the need to resolve political, economic and social factors that contribute to the emergence of violent conflicts.

The great development challenge we face is to create societies where democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, social solidarity and individual prosperity prevail. Latin America has made great progress in consolidating democracy and the rule of law. However, it faces a very critical economic and social situation today. As the reports of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank point out, our region not only has the lowest economic growth rates of all regions of the world, it is also faced with an ongoing systemic and financial crisis.

That situation not only threatens to spread and aggravate poverty in the countries of Latin America, it also threatens to erode our effort to attain the Millennium Development Goals. Worse still is that the situation is also eroding democratic governance, while our citizens call for concrete results in the economic and social fields from democratic Governments. We must, therefore, understand that strong democratic governance requires economic strength and stability, and the only way to address growing social demands, unemployment and acute poverty is through healthy growth, with social equity among our economies.

Therefore, the time has come to find a way to finance the defence of democratic governance. For that reason, Peru has proposed to the international community in various forums the need to create innovative financing mechanisms that will enable us to strengthen democratic governance. We need to establish international mechanisms that will enable us to close the gap between social demands faced by democratic Governments, particularly demands that call on society to produce concrete results for people's well-being. Results will be seen later through the economic policies pursued that encourage investment, trade and the development of our markets. What is at issue specifically is defending the enormous efforts achieved in building democracy and macroeconomic stability. We have thus asked the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to prepare a study about possible mechanisms of a new architecture for the international financial system in order to support democratic governance. The United Nations Development Programme is also examining future measures to that end. We hope that the next report of the Secretary-General will include innovative ideas on this crucial issue faced by Latin America.

I wish to conclude by expressing the firm conviction of Peru that the strengthening of the United Nations and the effective performance of its functions are fundamental in seeking cooperative responses to international crises and problems. Consequently, we support the appeal of the Secretary-General to continue strengthening multilateralism as the sole strategic option in the endeavours of States.

**Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein): In presenting his report (A/57/1) on the work of the Organization on 12 September, the Secretary-General made a strong appeal for multilateralism. That might seem surprising before an audience that should epitomize the spirit of multilateralism. But while the international community indeed rallied in a forceful and unprecedented manner to respond to the attacks of 11 September, the promise contained in our coming together quickly faded and was replaced by old patterns of confrontation and unilateral action. To our mind, the rule of law has become a predominant theme over the past few months. This Organization, and the Security Council in particular, is challenged to live up to its role as the guardian of the rule of law.

The ongoing controversy surrounding the International Criminal Court took on an unfortunate new dimension when the Security Council adopted its resolution 1422 (2002) last summer. We remain convinced that the functions and powers of the Security Council do not encompass the competence to alter or interpret international treaties. We are also concerned that such action outside the mandate given by the Charter could weaken the political credibility of the Council in the long run.

Given that the Council acts on behalf of the entire membership, and in the light of the enormous challenges it is facing, the legitimacy and thus the political credibility of the Council are of the utmost importance. I would like to reiterate at this juncture that my Government remains fully committed to preserving the integrity of the Rome Statute which entered into force on 1 July.

The international rule of law is in particular at stake when it comes to the use of armed force. While

the discussions of the past few weeks have been cause for some concern, they still made one thing abundantly clear. The legitimacy provided by a decision of the Security Council is unique indeed, and that legitimacy is necessary to ensure that armed intervention, where inevitable, enjoys the support of the international community as a whole.

Implementation, of course, is the other element that is decisive for credibility. Resolutions of the Council are legally binding on all Member States, and the implementation of all Council decisions must be ensured. In this context, the use of armed force should be considered only as a last resort in cases where non-compliance clearly poses a threat to international peace and security.

Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) is the central element of the quick and determined response of the United Nations to the threat posed by international terrorism. The work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee illustrates in many ways how the United Nations works at its best and how the rule of law is essential to guarantee human security.

That same rule of law must also prevail in our dealing with individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist activities. Basic standards of human rights, which constitute one of the great achievements of the United Nations, have to be observed at all times. It would be a grave mistake to treat human rights, a "bedrock requirement for the realization of the Charter's vision" (*A/57/387, para. 45*), to quote the Secretary-General, as a luxury which we can afford during good times and dispense with in times of crisis such as those created by international terrorism. Rather, they constitute the foundation upon which our actions must be based.

My remarks so far have focused on the Security Council because its activities during the past year have had such a strong impact. But much of what I have said leads me to conclude that this body, the General Assembly, has to play a stronger role. We are therefore satisfied to see that both the new reform proposals of the Secretary-General — an agenda for further change (A/57/387) — and the priorities for your term in office, Mr. President, contain a call for a stronger General Assembly. The implementation of the Millennium Declaration offers an ideal opportunity for the General Assembly to assert its place as the only universal organ of the United Nations.

We hope that the United Nations is about to enter an era of implementation and application of the agreed standards and goals, many of which are a result of the major conferences of the past decade. We do indeed feel the "summit fatigue" (*A/57/357, para. 24*) mentioned by the Secretary-General in his reform report. The standards are clear. Ambitious goals have been set, and our work should now focus on implementation.

The Millennium Development Goals must constitute the centre of our efforts in that respect. The road map given to us by the Secretary-General offers clear guidance for the implementation process which, after the conferences of Monterrey and Johannesburg, which were complementary in many respects, must be tackled with renewed vigour and political will.

We appreciate the overview on progress achieved given to us by the Secretary-General, in particular the emphasis placed on the two themes designated for this year: conflict prevention and the prevention of major diseases. On conflict prevention, it is not too surprising to note that the necessary change of mindset has not yet taken place, and that political and material support for preventive efforts has not been very forthcoming. Since the change from response to prevention constitutes a true paradigm shift, and given the often elusive character of preventive efforts, it will only be after a learning process that prevention will take its rightful place as foreseen in the Charter of the Organization. We will continue to give our full political support to the efforts of the Secretary-General to create a culture of prevention.

In the area of fighting diseases, HIV/AIDS continues to be at the forefront of our concerns, and the information available does not indicate a reversal of trends since the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment last year (resolution S-26/2). The special session on HIV/AIDS was a good example of how the quick succession of major United Nations meetings can have a negative impact on follow-up and implementation activities. The Declaration of Commitment is a bold text and would constitute an efficient tool to combat the pandemic if applied and implemented at the national and international levels. We therefore hope that the General Assembly will devote special attention to the follow-up activities, especially since 2003 is already the first target year contained in the Declaration.

The Millennium Development Goals are visionary and are subject to a lengthy process. We must ensure that our record on implementation is very soon more positive than mixed at best.

**Mr. Baali** (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Secretary-General for the report on the Organization's activities (A/57/1) as well as his report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (A/57/270), adopted in September 2000 by the United Nations. While the former report provides an accounting of what has been undertaken in the various areas of the Organization's activity during the past year, the latter endeavours to recount the progress achieved and the problems encountered over the past two years in implementing the commitments undertaken under the various chapters of the Millennium Declaration. It is therefore evident that both reports are linked in terms of their contents, which justifies their being considered in the same debate.

Clearly, the breadth and the diversity of the Organization's activities — which both of the reports present in exhaustive detail — and the limited time that has been accorded us for today's debate do not permit us to address in detail all the activities undertaken by the Organization in the past year. Since we will soon have the opportunity to consider some extremely important points before the Assembly — such as those touching on the reforms of the Organization and the revitalization of the Assembly — I shall confine my comments to certain areas of the Organization's activities that are of major importance to my delegation.

With regard to peace and security, the tragic events of 11 September have given new impetus to the Organization's anti-terrorism activities aimed at giving effect to concerted measures to fight terrorism, in conformity with the commitments undertaken by States Members in the Millennium Declaration. However, while one welcomes the international community's awakening to the dangers that terrorism represents for humanity as a transnational phenomenon and as a threat to international peace and security — as well as to the measures taken by the General Assembly and the Security Council to prevent and to combat terrorism — it is still true that much remains to be done. I am speaking here of concrete actions to eradicate that devastating scourge.

The United Nations must, first of all, pursue its efforts to urge Member States to ratify the 12 international conventions against terrorism and to finalize the negotiations on the two draft conventions, in particular the draft comprehensive convention against terrorism. We also hope that the General Assembly, at the level of both the Third Committee and the Fifth Committee, can adopt during this session the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in his report (A/57/152) dated 2 July 2002 on strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat. Finally, subregional, regional and international anti-terrorism cooperation — to which all States say they are attached — should become a tangible reality so that the States that face terrorism have at their disposal the necessary means to combat it.

Now more than ever, the United Nations needs increased capacity and means to realize its potential for conflict prevention. Experience has shown that the effective and swift prevention of conflicts is clearly more effective and less costly for the Organization in human and financial terms than peacekeeping or peace-building operations. We subscribe to the idea expressed by the Secretary-General that

> "the international conflict management system can and must invest in capacities for structural and operational prevention at all levels, from local to national, from regional to international ...." (A/57/270, para. 32)

While it is true that success in conflict prevention is difficult to measure, that does not make such success any less important. The events of 11 September reminded us of that reality in a brutal and tragic way.

In the area of peacekeeping, the United Nations has benefited in the past two years from an extremely important contribution of financial, human and logistical resources. First of all, the scale of assessments for the peacekeeping operations budget was reformed in December 2000, making it possible to meet financing needs, which reached a volume unprecedented in the Organization's history — nearly $2.8 billion — in the past budgetary year. Then, in the context of the Brahimi report (A/55/305), the management and planning capacities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations were strengthened with the creation of more than 200 new posts. And finally, last June the General Assembly approved the implementation of the concept of strategic deployment

stocks, enabling the Secretariat to set up a reserve of stores to support a complex mission at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy, for the rapid deployment of a mission within 30 to 90 days.

Nevertheless, we continue to think that harmonious and orderly implementation of the recommendations of the Brahimi report, and those of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, essentially requires establishing better coordination among the various actors and increasing the effectiveness of the planning and management of peacekeeping operations by recruiting highly qualified personnel, including for missions in the field. It is also essential to strengthen United Nations assistance to regional organs so that they can fulfil their responsibilities, particularly with regard to conflict prevention and peacekeeping in their respective geographic spheres. In that connection, we hope that the envisaged revision and redefinition of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union will give new impetus to the collaboration between those organizations.

The wide scope of the humanitarian problems generated by situations of war or natural disaster that today affect vast regions of the world — in particular numerous developing countries — shows that it is indispensable and urgent that we strengthen the means available to the United Nations to react swiftly and effectively, with a view to ensuring that we meet the vital needs of civilian populations, particularly vulnerable persons such as women and children. In Africa, persistent humanitarian crises linked to conflict, famine, natural disasters, especially drought, and the spread of infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, challenge the human conscience and require effective measures to be taken at the level of the United Nations system with a view to finding a lasting solution. So that it may play its full role in the humanitarian area, the United Nations must put in place mechanisms to coordinate aid among the various humanitarian bodies and institutions, which then must act in partnership to negotiate access, to mobilize resources and to furnish common services, such as aerial transport and communications.

Furthermore, although it is true that it is up to the concerned countries themselves to tackle problems related to internally displaced populations, it is no less necessary that policies and mechanisms agreed upon by intergovernmental organs be established at the United Nations level to help address, in a concerted manner and at the request of concerned States, the problems of displaced civilians, whose growing number — more than 50 million worldwide in 2001 — is becoming increasingly disturbing. Despite the improvement seen in 2001 after the repatriation of 700,000 refugees to their countries of origin, the refugee situation remains worrisome — particularly in Africa, which still has more than 5 million refugees. The situation is even more disturbing in the light of the acts of violence and sexual exploitation committed against women and children by humanitarian personnel or by members of peacekeeping missions, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in West Africa — serious allegations that are currently the subject of an investigation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

Turning to the field of international economic cooperation, we vest great hope in the effective implementation of the commitments undertaken at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and the DOHA Ministerial Conference in order to overcome those obstacles that stand in the way of economic growth and sustainable development of the developing countries, and thus to achieve the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly to halve, by 2015, poverty and famine throughout the world.

This is the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative, which aims to set Africa on the way to sustainable development and to integrate it into the global economy. That being so, the support of the international community and in particular of the United Nations system is more than ever necessary for the success of this initiative, which was launched by the Africans themselves, and also to respond to the specific needs of Africa as set out in the Millennium Declaration.

In order effectively to implement NEPAD, it is essential to adapt United Nations programmes to the NEPAD approach, to promote intersectoral coherence and to bring about, under the authority of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, enhanced coordination between the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system in order to share tasks and avoid duplication and overlapping.

Thus we attach particular importance to the upcoming regional meeting of the United Nations

institutions, to be held at Addis Ababa, particularly in terms of dealing with certain weaknesses and shortcomings in matters of coordination. We would like also to see some account taken of the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which was approved by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session last July, emphasizing the need for the United Nations system to define a strategic operational framework that will provide support for the implementation of NEPAD — a framework that should identify problems, spell out objectives, define the role to be played by the various organizations, set out resource needs and, finally, introduce achievement indicators.

The modest results of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, as set out in the annual report of the Secretary-General, should encourage States Members of the United Nations to redouble their efforts to give significant impetus particularly to those activities connected with priority areas in which little progress, unfortunately, has been made. It is our hope that the breakthroughs that have been seen in certain fields will be consolidated by 2005, and that, when the Secretary-General presents his overall five-year report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, further success will have been achieved under all of the headings of the Declaration.

**Mr. McIvor** (New Zealand): Sir, let me first offer my delegation's congratulations on your election as President of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly. We look forward to working with you over the coming months.

My delegation will address particularly the second item in this joint debate — that is, the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization. Before doing so, however, I would like to comment briefly on one of the key issues identified in the follow-up to the Millennium Summit.

The challenge of humanitarian intervention has long been on the agenda of the United Nations. We welcome the report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, entitled "The responsibility to protect". That report addresses some of the questions surrounding humanitarian intervention and sovereignty posed by the Secretary-General in his Millennium address. We encourage further debate and dialogue on the ideas expressed in the report.

The onus to rise to the challenges set forth by the Secretary-General and encapsulated in "The responsibility to protect" rests also with the Security Council. It is unfortunate that the power of the veto continues to undermine the ability of this Organization effectively to respond to humanitarian situations and to maintain international peace and security.

The Secretary-General's report provides a useful account of the Organization's activities during the past year. It highlights the major challenges faced, of which there were many. It was a year that — perhaps more than ever before — demonstrated the unique value of multilateral action through the United Nations. Collective action is needed, whether the challenge is to respond to a major threat to global security and stability, or to combat poverty and promote sustainable development. The issues are complex and interrelated. We fully endorse the Secretary-General's view, as set out in paragraph 4 of his report, that "all nations stand to benefit from the constructive change that multilateralism makes possible".

The value of an annual report is in providing an analytical account of recent developments that identifies the major issues for an Organization in working towards its key goals. As a stakeholder in this Organization, we look for something more than a historic record — rather, a strategic overview that can help us provide direction and advice to the Organization on the best way forward.

The benefits of such an approach are picked up by the Secretary-General in his latest initiative to strengthen the United Nations. He sees the report on the work of the Organization as the precursor to a more forward-looking report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. Together these documents would form the annual report of the United Nations — learning from what has happened in the past year and applying those lessons to the challenges ahead. We support this proposal to rationalize reporting and indeed wonder whether it might not be possible to take the further step and combine the two reports in a single document. This would also have the advantage of focusing this debate on achieving the Millennium Goals as central to the business of the United Nations. In this regard, the Secretary-General has just provided us with a frank and disturbing assessment of the lack of progress towards these goals.

We are not seeking change for change's sake. As the Secretary-General has said, his goal is to enhance the coherence of analysis by the Secretariat and to encourage Member States to address related issues in an integrated way. This will allow us to maximize the policy relevance and impact of our deliberations. We fully endorse this approach.

The 2002 report is comprehensive, and we would comment on a few aspects only.

The Secretary-General rightly highlights the successful conclusion of the transitional administration of East Timor. On 20 May this year we witnessed the birth of a new nation. Recently, that nation took its rightful place in the membership of this Organization. We have commented elsewhere on the role of the United Nations in the process. Let me just say here that we have learned the importance of an international response that is timely and flexible. In a remarkably short time frame, the United Nations has had to provide a diverse range of assistance. We welcome the continued engagement of the United Nations through the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) in the knowledge that there is still much work to be done.

There is also progress in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The United Nations Political Office usefully complemented the work of the regional "coalition of the willing" Peace Monitoring Group and has played an important role in weapons disposal. As I speak, the second, bulk containment phase of the weapons-disposal process is scheduled to be nearing completion. The commitment shown by the parties lays a solid foundation for future peace in Bougainville. My Government is confident that the new Government of Papua New Guinea, led by Sir Michael Somare, will continue to support the peace process in Bougainville. We call on Francis Ona, the leader of the Me'ekamui Defence Force, to seize the opportunity to play his part in the history of Bougainville, for the future of all its people, and join the peace process as it moves to completion. If current progress is maintained, the election of an autonomous Bougainville Government should be possible within the next 12 months.

The international intervention in Afghanistan has been perhaps the most comprehensive of its kind. With security provided by International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the Security Council approved a mandate for the United Nations operation, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) that included humanitarian, recovery, political, governance and peace-building elements. This acknowledges the fact that complex situations require complex solutions.

We have been pleased with developments in the peacekeeping area, including improved consultation between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. It is encouraging to note that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has set itself a small number of strategic goals and that significant progress has been made in enhancing rapid deployment capability, especially with the United Nations Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS) for personnel. New Zealand was pleased to formalize its commitment to UNSAS this year with the Prime Minister signing a Memorandum of Understanding. We would encourage other States to support the United Nations in this regard. We also note that the strategic deployment stocks in the logistics base at Brindisi are being enhanced. New Zealand over the last few years has made a substantial contribution to the peacekeeping mission in East Timor. We will continue to play our part in supporting United Nations peacekeeping efforts within our available resources and capabilities.

The past year has witnessed the rejuvenation of global commitment to sustainable development. The International Conference on Financing for Development brought about a remarkable consensus on the need for global action to address development issues through adequate financing, people-centred development, policy reforms and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development reiterated the importance of sustainability in the holistic process of development and our shared responsibilities in this regard. WSSD saw the establishment of important objectives on water and sanitation, oceans, energy, natural resources, biodiversity, health, and the addressing of regional concerns, including those of the Pacific island States. It upheld universal social objectives and the determination to eradicate poverty. It offered fresh ideas on the roles of the United Nations agencies, including the streamlining of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Coupled with the Millennium Development Goals, Monterrey and Johannesburg have left the United Nations and its Member States with a clear road map for global

progress. The challenge now, is to ensure effective implementation of those undertakings. New Zealand looks forward to working with the international community to achieve that.

The Secretary-General's report notes that work has begun on further reform of the Organization. We welcome his initiative to further strengthen the United Nations and believe that his proposals, if fully adopted and implemented, could substantially improve the Organization. We will address his proposals in more detail under the relevant item.

**Mr. Wang** Yingfan (China): The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the work of the Organization and on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The two reports cover the progress made in all major areas of work and deserve serious consideration by Member States. Here, I would like to make the following comments in the light of these reports.

First, even as mankind has entered into the twenty-first century, we are still faced with severe challenges in safeguarding world peace. In the Middle East, the vicious cycle of violence between Israel and Palestine has not stopped. In Iraq, the danger of war breaking out exists. If it should happen, the already turbulent situation in that region would become more complex. The situation in the South Asia subcontinent is also worrying. In spite of the fact that different degrees of progress have been made in reaching political settlement in some regional conflicts in Africa, peace and stability have not prevailed. While the international struggle against terrorism has reaped first fruits, tasks to eliminate the root causes are onerous and the road is long.

The international community should have a sober understanding of the threats that face the current peace situation. It must deal with all kinds of problems, new and old, with renewed thinking and methods in the light of emerging novel situations and problems and prepare to face numerous complicated security challenges with multiple means, such as political, economic, scientific and technological and cultural means. It must also always attach importance to ensuring that the United Nations plays a central role in international peace and security.

Secondly, the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and the eventual elimination of those weapons are crucial for maintaining and enhancing international peace and security. The full participation of and close cooperation among all States is a prerequisite for the success of international non-proliferation efforts. In this regard, we should give full play to the role of the United Nations and other international organizations. China has always been firmly opposed to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and has taken concrete actions in this regard. Recently, the Chinese Government promulgated regulations on export control of missiles and missile-related items and technologies, and the missiles and missile-related items and technologies export control list. Moreover, the Chinese Government will promulgate in the near future administrative rules on export control of chemical items and related equipment and technologies, and regulations on export control of biological dual-use items and related equipment and technologies. With the promulgation of the above-mentioned regulations, China will establish a comprehensive system of export controls over sensitive items covering the nuclear, biological, and chemical and missile fields.

China supports the full implementation of the thirteen nuclear disarmament steps contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference on the premise of maintaining global strategic stability and undiminished security for all countries. China welcomes the new treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation on the reduction of strategic offensive forces, and hopes that the United States and Russia, as the countries with the largest nuclear arsenals and bearing special and primary responsibilities for nuclear disarmament, will continue to drastically reduce and destroy their nuclear weapons in a verifiable and irreversible way.

China is of the view that the Conference on Disarmament should at an early date re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space and start substantive work with a view to negotiating and concluding an international legal instrument that would prevent the weaponization of and the creation of an arms race in outer space. The goal is to prevent outer space from becoming a new battlefield.

Thirdly, over the past year, the United Nations has sponsored a series of important conferences, including the International Conference on Financing

for Development and World Summit for Sustainable Development, during which the Monterrey Consensus was forged and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation were adopted. These were of great significance for promoting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. However, efforts in implementing those goals are very unbalanced. Much of sub-Sahara Africa and large parts of Central Asia are hardly advancing, and some even falling back in poverty-reduction. Some parts of Latin America are also slow in this area. Based on the current trend, it will be very difficult for the developing countries to achieve the objective of halving the poverty rate by 2015.

In order to meet the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations and the international community should take more active measures to increase the investment of resources. At present, it is of utmost importance to do the following: first, developed countries ought to open their markets to developing countries, expedite their implementation of commitments in debt-reduction and enable official development assistance to reach a percentage of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product, so as to enable practical solutions to issues of finance and technology that are necessary for meeting the development goals.

Secondly, we advocate promoting a balanced and steady development of economic globalization, reforming the current rules in the world economy and strengthening the guidance and management of the globalization process.

Thirdly, there should be a strengthening of developing countries' capacity for self-development. The international community should respect the right of the developing countries to choose a development path suited to their own national conditions and provide them with assistance in areas such as institution-building, personnel training and competitiveness development.

Fourthly, the international community should continue to promote sustainable development and a balanced development of the economy, population, resources and environment, with a view to achieving appropriate integration of economic return, social well-being and environmental benefits. The international community should also endeavour to combine the efforts to address environmental problems of individual countries with their efforts to tackle global concerns.

Multilateralism has become the main theme of the current session of the General Assembly. Most Member States support the remarks made by the Secretary-General, to the effect that multilateralism, with the United Nations as its centre, is needed by all nations in order to meet global challenges successfully.

Experience has shown that, as the most universal and representative inter-governmental Organization, the United Nations has an irreplaceable role to play in safeguarding peace, promoting development, enhancing anti-terrorism cooperation and helping to solve global problems, such as mass movements of refugees, HIV/AIDS, overpopulation and environmental degradation.

Recently, the Secretary-General submitted a report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (*A/57/387*). This report deserves serious study by Member States. China will, as always, actively support and participate in the United Nations reform process.

**Mr. De Alba** (Mexico)(*spoke in Spanish*): We have received with interest the first annual report on the progress made by the United Nations system and Member States in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. There is no doubt that these reports and the five-year report are essential in order to provide concise monitoring of the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.

However, I must note our concern that, in the first two years since the adoption of the Declaration, progress in the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and the broader and cross-cutting goals, such as the maintenance of international peace and security, disarmament, human rights, democracy, good governance and attention to the specific needs of Africa, have been very uneven.

The results of this report should be taken as an early warning sign regarding the need to pool our efforts and resources at the national, regional and international levels, in order to remedy these disparities, if we wish to reach the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015, as we committed ourselves to doing.

It should be recalled that these goals are not new. Rather, they sum up the commitments undertaken in several world conferences held during the 1990s.

Failure to meet them would render the United Nations Organization irrelevant.

The development goals range from the eradication of poverty and hunger to the fight against infectious disease and the reduction of infant and maternal mortality. The report makes it clear that advances made in recent years in the developing countries conceal, in general, a much more fragmented reality. The figures as a whole do not reflect the enormous disparities that exist between the regions that make up the developing world and between the countries within a single region, with East Asia and the Pacific at one extreme, and a large part of sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia at the other.

The present slowdown of the world economy is a factor that certainly was not foreseen when the Millennium Declaration was adopted and thus renders the pursuit of its Goals more difficult. This slowdown is affecting all countries in the world inasmuch as globalization links all economies, directly or indirectly; but, above all, it makes more remote the possibility that the poorest countries and developing countries, which, due to their geographical situation, may be at an additional disadvantage — as is the case of small island States and landlocked States — would be able to reach the Millennium Goals.

The Monterrey consensus recognized the primary responsibility of each country for its own economic and social development. At the same time, it recognized the link of national economies to the global economic system and the fact that the success of national development efforts depends not only on Governments' adopting appropriate policies, but also to a great extent on their having a favourable international environment.

Direct foreign investment, international trade, sustainable financing of external debt, official development assistance and greater coherence and coordination of the monetary, financial and international trade systems are basic instruments to ensure that the efforts of developing countries can bear fruit.

This linkage between national economies and the world economic system means that the only way to approach the problems of development is through broad strategic alliances, conceived between Governments, international institutions and civil society, including, especially, the private sector. This was clearly embodied in the Millennium Declaration and in the summits that have been held since that time, such as the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg conferences.

A sustainable environment is another of the Millennium Development Goals, in which, although there has been some progress, there have also been significant setbacks. We are moving away from this goal when we allow, among other things, continued deforestation and dependency on fossil fuels. The consequences of global warming could more seriously affect the poorer regions, which are those least to blame for the problem. Therefore, the report makes an appeal, endorsed by Mexico, that developed countries should lend assistance to those developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, so that they can adapt in the best possible way to its effects on their economies. It is clear that what is required is greater cooperation between the industrialized and the developing countries, since we are dealing with shared responsibility. But, above all, we are dealing with a particular responsibility — that of the developed countries — inasmuch as they have contributed to the greater extent to the deterioration of the environment.

Among threats to international peace and security, certainly terrorism is in the foreground. This subject has received special attention over the past year, stemming from the tragic events in the United States on 11 September 2001. We, United Nations Member States, have shown solidarity and collective responsibility in our response to these attacks. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that terrorism is not the only threat to international peace and security and that in order to confront it more effectively it is necessary to attack its causes.

Similarly, it is essential to bear in mind that we must take special care to fully respect human rights in the fight against terrorism.

We are also concerned about the fact that the inconclusive results in promoting democratic systems, good governance and respect for human rights in general show insignificant progress. The most recent *Human Development Report* confirms the fact that the link between democracy, the rule of law and human development constitutes an essential principle for political stability. It is also therefore essential for peace, transparency in public administration, the political participation of our populations and the

overall well-being of our peoples. Democracy could be imperiled if the principles and policies that national Governments committed themselves to implement when they adopted democratic systems were to be ignored in the management of the international economic system. The same will be true if measures are not adopted to counteract the negative impact of the global economic downturn and that of globalization in developing countries.

**Ms. Tan** (Singapore): We congratulate the Secretary-General for his thoughtful and balanced reports on the work of the Organization and the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. They are concise and analytical accounts of the work of the United Nations over the past year. It is particularly commendable that the Secretary-General not only focused on the successes, but also highlighted the problems that need to be addressed.

When this agenda item was debated last year, we observed with regret that the Secretary-General could not report on the performance of the board of directors of the United Nations, that is, the Member States of the General Assembly. We also suggested that it was possible that some of the legislative processes within the United Nations might have become dysfunctional.

In his seminal work, *Swords Into Ploughshares*, Inis Claud, Jr., observed the following about the General Assembly:

> "The Assembly's central position in the administrative system of the Organization, typified by its electoral, budgetary and supervisory powers, makes it the institutional hub of the United Nations. Thus the evolution of constitutional relationships within the United Nations system has tended to make the General Assembly the unrivalled principal organ of the entire system."

In fact, Mr. Claud expressed concern about the increasing role of the General Assembly at the expense of the Security Council. That was in 1956, when the book was first published. How does that compare with the situation today? The Secretary-General noted in his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" that

> "The General Assembly is the only universal forum in which all States have an equal voice. Through its power to consider and approve the budget, the Assembly has a great deal of authority for the effective functioning of the United Nations. Yet, many Member States consider that the Assembly's contribution to the Organization's work is diminishing, and I share their concern." (*A/57/387, para. 15*)

The prestige of the United Nations balances on a tripod made of three equally important legs: the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat. The award of the centennial Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations and the Secretary-General last year is a clear recognition that the United Nations has done some things right. The Secretariat has undergone a period of significant reforms through the institutional process and programme improvements implemented by the Secretary-General since 1997. It has now emerged leaner and fitter, even though it is being asked to do more within unchanging budgets.

A lot more could be done to improve the Security Council's accountability, transparency and willingness and ability to act in a timely manner in situations affecting international peace and security. But some noteworthy and substantive progress has been made to its working methods. Many of those developments are outlined in the report prepared by the Secretariat and circulated as document S/2002/603, dated 6 June 2002. Those improvements are also noted by the Secretary-General in his report on the strengthening of the United Nations.

> (*Mr. Bouallay (Bahrain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*)

In comparison, the General Assembly is increasingly seen as the weakest link of that tripod. The media have little or no interest in the statements delivered. There is a perception that the General Assembly is saddled with an ever-expanding laundry list of issues, many of which are repetitive and have been on the agenda for years. In fact, issues that are clearly within the prerogative of the General Assembly are increasingly being raised in the Security Council, where the chances of catching media and public attention are greatly enhanced. Examples include HIV/AIDS and the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that although the General Assembly comes before the Security Council in the ordering of the Chapters in the Charter of the United Nations, in the United Nations daily

*Journal* Security Council meetings are always presented before General Assembly meetings.

We are in a paradoxical situation. We are all agreed on the importance of revitalizing the General Assembly. During the general debate, three weeks ago, nearly all delegations cited revitalizing the General Assembly as an important priority. However, despite several successive rounds of reform, the pervasive assessment is that we have not done enough. Many resolutions have been passed on revitalization since the forty-sixth session. Many of the ideas put forward have been on the table for quite a long time. What we really need is the will to implement them and to change the status quo.

All that is not to say that there have not been recent improvements to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General said in his report on the Millennium Declaration that the innovations endorsed by the General Assembly in response to his 97 reports on renewing the United Nations and on the Brahimi report had enabled the Organization to act with greater unity of purpose, coherence of efforts and agility. But those are not sufficient. Several permanent representatives and other representatives observed that the General Assembly that they knew from, say, 20 years ago, was the hub of United Nations activities. The debates in the plenary Hall were lively and interesting. Lively and interesting debates are not ends in themselves. But the deep somnolence that characterizes our debates now cannot be desirable.

The General Assembly is clearly overburdened with an ever-expanding agenda. Worse still, we have continued with our old working methods, rituals and habits — resulting in repetitious statements and exhausting negotiations. The truly worrisome aspect of it all is that the energies expanded are often not commensurate with the outcomes achieved. The result is exhausted representatives, dissipated energies, dissatisfactory implementation of agreed goals and a disinterested public, with consequent impacts on follow-up. The Secretary-General made similar observations in his reports on the strengthening of the United Nations.

Under the leadership of the President's predecessors we have made some progress towards managing agenda items more efficiently through clustering and spacing out of the frequency at which issues appear on the agenda of the General Assembly. We are already benefiting from this, and the work programme for this year's plenary meetings is much improved. We are particularly pleased that in his statement at the opening of the fifty-seventh session, the President announced his intention to hold panel discussions and informal consultations on issues of common interest, as well as to streamline the General Assembly agenda.

The Millennium Declaration, agreed to by our leaders, clearly sets out priorities including precise and time-bound goals. The Secretary-General's proposed road map to implement the Millennium Declaration provides a good basis for the work of the General Assembly. During his press conference on the fifth progress report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the Secretary-General reported that the world was falling short in meeting the Millennium Goals. The achievement of many of those goals depends on actions taken at the national level.

It is also very important that the General Assembly align its activities with the Goals.

It is also very important that the General Assembly align its activities with the Goals. The many draft resolutions we deliberate on and adopt in the General Assembly must be streamlined with a view to achieving those Goals in the most expeditious way. There have been good examples of proactive action taken by some committees. Last year, for example, the Second Committee agreed to defer discussions on several key issues since they were already being negotiated in the context of the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development. We understand that the Second Committee is currently in the midst of examining its working methods in order to implement effectively the outcomes of recent high-level summits and meetings such as the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Social Development. All such practices are highly commendable and should be actively considered.

We fully support the views expressed by the Secretary-General in the concluding paragraphs of the report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration that efforts to revitalize the General Assembly must continue if the Organization is to assume in full the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter. We are all aware of the problems facing the General Assembly. We need to intensify our efforts to

rationalize its agenda, working methods and procedures. The General Assembly is an intergovernmental body, and only Governments can ensure that it is able to effectively play its role as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. A tripod is a simple yet remarkably stable and ingenious piece of engineering equipment. A tripod needs all of its three legs to be equally strong. We have a critical need to fortify the third leg — the General Assembly — in order to ensure for the United Nations a position of strength and stability.

**Mr. Kolby** (Norway): Let me begin by complimenting the Secretary-General on his introduction to the report before us on implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

The Millennium Declaration has given new priorities and a new direction to the Organization and its Member States. Each country must choose a strategy to achieve the goals that we have set collectively. The important issue is, however, that the Millennium Development Goals be reached within the agreed time limits. The international community and multilateral and bilateral donors must ensure that their efforts to assist in this endeavour are based on national poverty-reduction strategies. This will ensure both national ownership and a coordinated approach.

The prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, based on current trends, are decidedly mixed, with marked differences between and within regions. This can to some extent be explained by the different approaches chosen by countries to meet specific goals.

The Secretary-General has made it clear in his report, that the world is falling short in meeting the objectives that world leaders agreed on two years ago in the Millennium Declaration. Let this be a timely warning to us all. Those in need and "We the people" — our constituencies — will not understand why we have made so little progress on the road to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The Secretary-General is also cautioning that insufficient progress is being made in meeting the broader objectives in the Declaration on issues such as human rights, democracy and good governance, conflict resolution, and the special needs of Africa.

My Government is firmly convinced that there are clear links between peace and security, sustainable development in the broader sense and good governance and respect for human rights. Every country is responsible for its own development, and this includes the responsibility for creating national mechanisms for sharing political, social and economic goods and ensuring the protection of civil liberties and human rights — in other words, the responsibility to help build democracy. This is a crucial and universal responsibility that no Government can ignore, whether or not it is measured against the attainment of the development goals.

There is another, equally important, responsibility that also needs to be clearly highlighted. The same kind of solidarity and sharing that we are asking for at the national level from all of our partners has a universal and global parallel: it is called official development assistance, and it is a development tool of the first order. Official development assistance should, by any reasonable standard of solidarity, have reached at least 0.7 per cent of donors' gross national product a long time ago.

Preliminary estimates show that the funds needed to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals are at least equal to a doubling of the present level of official development assistance. It could well be much higher. Since we as donor countries now have specific commitments to meet and a better understanding of what it takes to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals, it is more than reasonable to expect renewed efforts to meet official development assistance commitments. It is also reasonable to expect improved market access for developing countries, reduced debt burden and other initiatives of equal importance to our partners in the developing countries.

This is also a question of meeting the scale of the challenges. It is no use emptying a few buckets of water onto a raging wildfire. Our most important fire-fighting equipment for achieving the Millennium Development Goals is hard cash. This is particularly true when its comes to reaching targets such as halving poverty, achieving universal primary education and reversing the spread of killer diseases.

Meeting the special needs of Africa is a challenge that in one way or another involves practically all the Millennium Development Goals. This is another challenge whose real magnitude must be viewed in the

context of the scale of the problems and met accordingly, by both the international community and the African countries themselves. My Government commends the African leaders on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative and on their willingness to tackle their continent's diverse and difficult problems. It is our belief that this new policy will contribute to peace and security and the prevention of armed conflict, which is a prerequisite for sustainable development. The NEPAD initiative is a truly valuable one and is worthy of international support.

Better ways must be found to support and finance this and other national and regional initiatives, however. Since the Millennium Summit, we have taken on new commitments at Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg on trade, financing for development and sustainable development. We have also succeeded in creating new partnerships in those areas. These partnerships should be developed and better tailored to support initiatives like NEPAD. This is one way of advancing towards the universal attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Given the sheer numbers and stark statistics of Africa, we have no option but to tackle Africa's urgent problems if we are to be anywhere near achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

This is particularly true when we consider the two issues highlighted in this year's report — the prevention of armed conflict and the treatment and prevention of major diseases, including the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic. These are, of course, not specifically African issues, but their impact is felt more strongly on that continent than anywhere else.

The Millennium Declaration also has a bearing on the strengthening of the United Nations. My Government is a strong believer in multilateralism and international solidarity. We believe firmly that United Nations Member States have a responsibility to meet common challenges and to solve common problems.

We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's report "Strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change". It is necessary to focus the Organization's attention on achieving the Millennium Development Goals and on following up on the recent world conferences. We agree with the Secretary-General on the new priorities outlined in the report. All activities should be scrutinized for policy coherence to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are comprehensively addressed in the revised programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

Let me in conclusion also say that we welcome the start of a millennium campaign to make the millennium commitments better known throughout the world and to ensure that they are the focus of global action. We think that the emphasis on national reports, where all stakeholders can participate, is a brilliant idea. We highly appreciate the appointment of Ms. Eveline Herfkens, former Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, to advise and assist the Secretary-General in this regard.

**Mr. Manalo** (Philippines): I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and substantive reports on the work of the Organization and the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration. In view of our limited time, however, I shall focus only on some issues raised in the report on the work of the Organization.

My delegation shares the Secretary-General's views on the continuing political, economic, environmental and technological challenges facing our world. Issues such as terrorism, mass refugee movements, HIV/AIDS, weapons of mass destruction, environmental degradation and pollution remain high on our agenda.

On conflict prevention, the efforts of the Secretary-General to move the United Nations from a culture of reaction to one of prevention should be supported. We continue to believe that conflict prevention remains the most efficient approach to the maintenance of international peace and security. However, it is important to note that conflict prevention should ultimately aim at addressing the root causes of potential conflicts and that conflict prevention measures of the United Nations should be undertaken in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, taking into account the historical background and political milieu of each situation being addressed. We shall be guided by these principles when we return to the pending draft resolution on this item later in this session.

Peacekeeping remains a major task of this Organization. This past year proved to be one marked by relative success. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the conclusion of the Transitional Administration of East Timor. As a neighbour from the

South-East Asian region and having been an active participant in United Nations initiatives and peacekeeping operations in that country, the Philippines is pleased that the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste has emerged from adversity to become the newest Member of the United Nations.

After the horrors of 11 September, the issue of fighting terrorism has become a priority issue on our agenda. My Government has fully supported and continues to fully support the efforts of the United Nations to fight terrorism and we encourage the Secretary-General to assist Member States in complying effectively with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). While the year under review witnessed an accelerated pace in the ratification of legal instruments on terrorism, manifesting vigilant global support for combating terrorism, much remains to be done.

We must also continue to work for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Philippines is a party to these Treaties and ratified the Treaty on South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, thus fulfilling our constitutional requirement of keeping the Philippines free from nuclear weapons. We also continue to support the convening of an international conference devoted to disarmament.

In the area of small arms, which is also cited in the report, the Philippines hosted a regional seminar on implementing the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, with the co-sponsorship of Canada last July, as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The seminar, in which member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, as well as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea participated, focused on the problems associated with the proliferation of small arms.

We concur with the Secretary-General's views on the alarming number of civilians who continue to be displaced either by natural disasters, armed conflict or cases of potential conflict. The deepening humanitarian crises in many parts of the world that have caused new waves of displacement are of great concern to many, including my Government. At the same time, as globalization progresses, more opportunities and greater choices for people to travel the world in search of and finding a livelihood are being created. Their safety and welfare thus become of paramount importance. We therefore encourage Member States to become State parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and to support the important work of humanitarian assistance agencies, such as the International Organization for Migration.

Propelled by economic differentials, internal political disorder, global networks of communication and transportation, and the political and economic constraints on the admission of migrants and refugees, the global nature of migration involving hundreds of millions of people requires that much higher priority be given to this issue in the United Nations system. As stated by the Secretary-General in his report on an agenda for further change, it is time we took a more comprehensive look at the various dimensions of the migration issue.

We are also pleased to note the Secretary-General's reference in his report to the link between the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development and a number of the core Millennium Development Goals. The most immediate and urgent task before us is to ensure that the Monterrey process enters its implementation stage by translating the Monterrey Consensus into concrete action measures. The follow-up to Monterrey is a priority issue on the agendas of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

On the World Summit on Sustainable Development, we share the Secretary-General's view that the Summit has put us on a path that reduces poverty while protecting the environment. It is also important that the follow-up processes on financing for development and sustainable development complement each other.

The Philippine Government supports the United Nations commitment to African development priorities within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and through the African Union. The Philippines has had a strong bond of friendship and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Africa, with whom we share common concerns, values and aspirations. In terms of technical assistance, as stated by my Secretary of Foreign Affairs during the most recent general debate, the Philippines has held

preliminary discussions with donor countries for providing technical assistance to Africa, especially in capacity-building. He expressed confidence that these talks would bear fruit.

We are further pleased to note the Secretary-General's inclusion of the problem of HIV/AIDS as one of his priority areas. The Philippines continues to support the goals of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, especially on the need to involve civil society, individuals and organizations in combating the pandemic. We also join other Governments in continuing to lobby for the affordable and easily accessible treatment of HIV/AIDS.

My delegation also recognizes the need to promote equal opportunities for the elderly and for people with disabilities in order to develop their abilities and to integrate them into the mainstream of our societies. We urge the Secretary-General and Member States to give high priority to this issue.

The continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the Organization are, indeed, welcome. In this regard, we find a number of the recommendations in his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387) to be both necessary and timely. We will comment on them in more detail at the appropriate time during this session.

On the overall issue of United Nations reform, our priority continues to be the revitalization of our most universal forum, the General Assembly, both structurally and in terms of more meaningful and substantive interaction with the other principal United Nations organs. The Philippines therefore urges that we build upon last year's exercise, while, at the same time, begin to implement agreed measures aimed at strengthening the General Assembly. In this regard, the President of the General Assembly and Presidents of future sessions of the Assembly might wish to consider effective ways to implement those existing mandates, such as convening more informal and interactive debates on certain plenary items such as the present one on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (*A/57/1*) and the report on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration (*A/57/270*) or on the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly.

As suggested in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change", we need a more coherent approach towards issues and our work in general. Perhaps that could be achieved by aligning the General Assembly agenda with the priorities of the Millennium Declaration and the decisions of recent global conferences, and by maintaining the flexibility to incorporate issues of immediate or urgent concern to the international community. This may not be as easy to accomplish as it sounds, but it is certainly worth a serious attempt on our part.

**Mr. Listre** (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): The presentation that the Secretary-General made on 12 September, on his report on the work of the Organization (*A/57/1*) and his report on implementing the Millennium Declaration (*A/57/270*) shared the common denominator of reaffirming multilateralism as a fundamental diplomatic tool for ensuring peace.

The lessons learned from the tragic events of the last century and the beginnings of the current century indicate that the grave problems we must face transcend national borders and that, as a consequence, they require coordinated solutions at the global level. The United Nations, because of its global mandate and universal representation, is the institution within which we must forge the agreements enabling humanity to advance together in overcoming the current challenges.

The two documents that we are examining on this occasion devote a substantial section to the question of peace and security. The Secretary-General notes that the grave events we are witnessing in various regions of the world are more akin to the state of anarchy depicted by Hobbes than to the noble aspirations embodied in the Millennium Declaration. We should study his words with the same seriousness which they embody and acknowledge that the construction of an order ensuring peace will always depend on the political will of States and on their readiness to abide by rules that have been agreed on collectively. All are bound by that requirement, but only the unwavering commitment of the most powerful can ensure that such an order works effectively.

The Secretary-General's call that we not wait for the outbreak of conflicts but, rather, that we work patiently for their prevention captures an essential aspect of the problem. A common will to direct human and material resources to that objective must be shown. That was possible in the recent past, when two successful preventive peacekeeping operations were

created, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force in Macedonia and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic. We agree that the regional and subregional context is also decisive in adequately managing a conflict, and we encourage cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in discussing and exchanging experience on conflict prevention and the coordination of joint endeavours.

We have examined the work carried out by the various peacekeeping operations. We agree that, despite the persistence of other grave situations, there is cause for satisfaction. Timor-Leste's admission to the Organization is the result of its people's determined struggle for the recognition of their right to self-determination. It has also been seen that when there is the political will, a clear mandate, sufficient financial, logistic and human resources and an exit strategy, the United Nations can play a very constructive role that helps to lay the foundation for the political, social and economic development of a country. Another remarkable case is that of Sierra Leone, where the work of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone and the disarming of the combatants led to elections and the formation of a Government that must now lead the way to a lasting national recovery.

The grave situation of civilian populations in complex emergencies, who become the direct target of attacks and abuses of all types, is cause for concern. Almost two years ago, the Secretary-General called for finding ways to respond to those attacks while respecting the sovereignty of States.

At the invitation of the Canadian Government, Argentina has contributed to the preparation of a collective process of reflection, as described in the report presented by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, entitled "The Responsibility to Protect". The report invites us to consider sovereignty — rather than as a right — as a responsibility to ensure the well-being of the population. My Government wishes to thank Canada for that initiative, which provided the basis for a process of reflection that cannot be postponed.

There is no doubt that, as is amply expressed in both reports, the brutal terrorist attack against the United States on 11 September of last year, in addition to being a criminal attack on its immediate victims, was an extraordinary challenge to everything that the United Nations represents in terms of defending peace and human rights. We believe that since those tragic days, the international community has reacted in a concerted manner to suppress the financing, planning and execution of terrorist acts, as well as to make progress in the creation of binding legal instruments.

The categorical condemnation of terrorism cannot be qualified for any reason without risking a descent along a slippery slope of highly dubious ethics. However, it is true that behind the evil actions of terrorist groups often lies a profound malaise of the societies in which this phenomenon arises. That is why it is necessary to analyse the context in which terrorism emerges in order to attack its causes and to prevent its proliferation.

States that are weak or that have fallen into anarchy and disintegration are a source of international threats from which come global ills such as terrorism and trafficking in arms and drugs. The international community must not forget or underestimate the importance of the so-called forgotten conflicts, since we still have before us the example of what happened in Afghanistan under the Taliban.

We believe that poverty eradication and the need to achieve development for all, the key objectives of the Millennium Declaration, are priorities whose relationship to violence cannot be underestimated. We must focus great efforts to achieve development, given the bleak picture described by the documents, which indicate that the world is divided as never before between rich and poor.

The Monterrey Conference produced a broad Consensus on means for mobilizing resources to that end. We fervently hope that the commitments made will become a reality. Important pledges were made for development assistance that lead us towards the goal of contributing O.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries, which only some have achieved.

There were also agreements reached there regarding free trade and access to markets. However, some events this year indicate that the principles of the free market, so strongly advocated by the developed countries, actually continue unapplied. Protectionism continues, and $1 billion continue to be spent daily on agricultural subsidies, excluding the exports of developing countries from the market. It is essential that the Monterrey Consensus be implemented, that the

will for trade liberalization expressed at Doha not be thwarted and that negotiation within the context of the World Trade Organization be intensified. The price of failure would be very high, as the Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved and confidence in multilateral action would weaken, resulting in more conflicts and tension.

It has been rightly said that lack of respect for human rights and the absence of democracy are factors that intensify political and social tension. The United Nations has already achieved important work in promoting and protecting human rights at all levels. We believe that in that area the lack of confidence of those who see political motives behind every reference to human rights must be overcome. Bloc voting in multilateral forums, referred to by the Secretary-General in his report, serves no purpose in opposing how human rights violations are addressed, because it only evades a problem that will soon erupt resulting in serious repercussions. We must work together to ensure the full operability of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, its system of communications and the committees established through international instruments in that domain.

The entry into force of the Statute of the International Criminal Court is an institutional advance that Argentina supports because it is aimed at putting an end to impunity and preventing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Criminal Court will play an outstanding deterrent role in the prevention of future human rights abuses. It must also be strengthened and its substance must be supported.

Another important factor in the outbreak of conflicts can be found in the promotion of sustainable development. In that context, the Argentine Republic welcomes the work done by the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the process that led to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, recently held in Johannesburg, which identifies concrete actions for implementing the commitments made in Agenda 21 in the economic, social and environmental fields.

Argentina notes with satisfaction the contents of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the administration and management of the Organization. In that respect, my country firmly supports the development in the area of information technology, particularly the integrated management information system. That is undoubtedly an element that provides great added value to the work of United Nations personnel. We also look forward to the reports concerning the capital master plan, particularly the proposals for agreements on financing it, which should be the subject of detailed discussion by the Fifth Committee.

The initiatives presented by the Secretary-General will strengthen the Organization in the area of administration and management, with a view to advancing the implementation of the objectives of the Millennium Declaration. Argentina pledges its participation in the consideration of that item by the Fifth Committee. We support the process of strengthening and reform of the United Nations now under way, and we shall speak in due course on that item when it comes before the Assembly. We agree with the Secretary-General that any reform of the United Nations will be incomplete without reform of the Security Council. We want and need a Council that is more transparent in its procedures, more democratic in its decision-making, more representative in its membership and more responsible.

Amid present difficulties, we do not want the words of the Millennium Declaration to serve in the future "as grim reminders of human needs neglected and promises unmet", as stated in the report on the implementation of the Declaration. Every State knows where its responsibilities lie, but only by through coordination will we be able to respond within a multilateral framework to the expectations in our countries that Members of the United Nations will be able to guarantee a future of peace, stability and progress.

**Mr. Akinsanya** (Nigeria): Let me begin by expressing appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his report on the work of the Organization. The report, contained in document A/57/1, discussed some of the most pressing issues confronting humanity today, such as terrorism, conflicts, natural disasters, human rights questions, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, poverty and sustainable development. The report is, therefore, not only a review of the relentless efforts of the Secretary-General to seek constructive solutions to those fundamental problems; it is also recognition of the complexities of the tasks confronting our Organization.

While some success has, obviously, been achieved in resolving some conflicts across the globe, a

lot still needs to be done to usher in durable peace and stability to conflict-ravaged States. In that regard, Nigeria commends the continued efforts of the Secretary-General on his use of the tools of quiet diplomacy, fact-finding and confidence building missions, informal networks of eminent persons, mediation, conciliation and arbitration in the search for peace. To some extent, modest successes have been recorded in the area of conflict prevention, mediation and resolution. For example, the total number of armed conflicts is on the decline, and there has been a significant increase in the number of peace agreements, especially in Africa. The adoption of a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to conflict prevention is, to our satisfaction, yielding good results.

In complying with the Millennium Declaration, regional organizations are strengthening their capacity in the area of maintaining international peace and security, through the establishment, with the assistance of the United Nations, of institutional arrangements for conflict prevention, management and resolution. In West Africa, for example, the establishment by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of the Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Management mechanism, as well as complementary institutions, such as the Council of Elders and the Mano River Women's Peace Network, are efforts aimed at institutionalizing conflict prevention strategy in the sub-region. In this respect, the United Nations, in active collaboration with ECOWAS and Mano River Union countries, participated in addressing complex humanitarian, political and security situations affecting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

We commend United Nations continued support of ECOWAS initiatives in the promotion of dialogue among these countries, in the belief that, without such dialogue, efforts to address the root causes of the sub-regions problems may not yield desired results. Nigeria therefore commends the establishment of the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for West Africa as a demonstration of the United Nations commitment to work closely with regional organizations and member States in finding solutions to the problems within the region. In this regard, we urge financial and logistical support to regional and sub-regional organizations in order to enhance their effectiveness.

As the world marks the anniversary of the unfortunate events of 11 September 2001, Nigeria reaffirms its unequivocal condemnation of all acts of terrorism, and its firm commitment to join all efforts within the United Nations and outside to combat this menace. We also pledge our cooperation with other members of the international community, through bilateral and multilateral efforts, to combat terrorism in all its manifestations. Nigeria condemns, in the strongest terms, all acts of terrorism and urge firm action by all Member States of the international community to fight this global phenomenon and to deny any support to terrorists and their cohorts.

At the Millennium Summit, our leaders resolved to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and to reduce the global risk posed by small arms, light weapons and landmines. The excessive accumulation, easy accessibility to, and availability of small and light weapons, hinder peace-building and development efforts and threaten human security. In this regard, Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in July 2001. We urge the international community to control the movement of these weapons, especially to non-State actors. We also call for the early elaboration of a legally binding international instrument to combat illegal trafficking in these arms.

With respect to landmines, Nigeria notes with satisfaction the success in the implementation of the 1999 Ottawa Convention. We observe that partnerships between the United Nations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations have resulted in progress on mine action, with a consequent decrease in the production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. Nevertheless, landmines continue to impede the development and security of populations, especially in some African States emerging from conflicts. We should therefore strengthen our support for the United Nations mine action, as it is the only source of curbing the menace of landmines.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to pose a grave challenge to our developmental efforts. We appreciate the efforts of the United Nations and the contribution of the international community in combating the HIV/AIDS scourge, particularly in Africa. Nigeria endorses the call by the Secretary General for a major new global campaign in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We also endorse the

Plan of Action adopted at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Special Summit on AIDS, which underscored the commitment of African leaders to intensify their efforts and mobilize resources for prevention, care and treatment of people infected by the disease.

Nigeria commends the Secretary-General for the establishment of a Global Aids and Health Fund in order to mobilize sufficient funds necessary to address the AIDS pandemic. In spite of its own commitments, Nigeria has redeemed its pledge of contributing $10 million to the Global Aids Fund.

We also recall that at the Millennium Declaration, our leaders resolved to eliminate poverty by launching a sustained campaign to make the right to development a reality for all. In order to reduce poverty and promote development, it is essential to achieve sustained and broad-based economic growth. The Millennium Development Goals highlighted priority areas that must be addressed, including commitments made by developed nations, such as increased official development assistance and improved market access for exports from developing countries. It is regrettable, however, that our development partners have yet to match their words with action on this matter of crucial importance for the achievement of the Millennium Goals.

The increasing level of poverty in developing countries, particularly in Africa, suggests that not much has been achieved with respect to increasing ODA and foreign direct investment flows to them, thereby constraining their ability to meet the targets of the Millennium Declaration on poverty eradication. If the international community must meet its goals of development and poverty eradication, conscious efforts must be made to accelerate economic growth in developing countries. Nigeria therefore urges Member States to ensure that Millennium Development Goals are incorporated into their national development plans, as they would help to increase the coherence of national policies and programmes.

With the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African countries have accepted responsibility for their own social and economic development. We acknowledge the importance of sound national policies and good governance, as prerequisites for poverty reduction and sustained national growth. We therefore welcome the fulsome recognition of the special needs of Africa, as contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the overwhelming support for NEPAD at the recent high-level debate of the General Assembly. Africa is poised to free itself from the throes of poverty, disease and under-development. We count on the support of the United Nations and the international community in the accomplishment of this goal.

The Charter of the United Nations and other sources of international law have established conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties can be maintained. We observe that the rule of law at the international level is becoming more widely accepted and States are increasingly employing treaties to regulate their relations. In this regard, we commend the establishment of the International Criminal Court, established by the Rome Statute. We believe that its creation will contribute significantly to compliance with international humanitarian law and respect of fundamental freedom.

In conclusion, Nigeria is pleased to note that the Secretary-General has made commendable efforts towards strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations. We also note that the Secretary-General has taken various initiatives, and hope that this would help us achieve the Millennium Development Goals and reach the targets we have set for ourselves.

**Mr. Andjaba** (Namibia): The Secretary-General, in his address to the General Assembly, stressed the ever-increasing importance of multilateralism and the responsibility of Member States of the United Nations to uphold the principles embodied in the Charter of our Organization. For that, and for his reports on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and on the Work of the Organization, respectively, my delegation expresses its appreciation.

We live in a world where so many of its citizens are troubled. So many people have lost hope for the future. How much effort we put into realizing a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, in which all human beings can live better and safer lives, is the challenge we all face.

The Secretary-General tells us that the events of 11 September last year brought us closer to the situation of millions of people around the world for whom the world had long been dangerous. What we do, therefore, to avoid a reoccurrence should make

everywhere in the world a safe place for human beings. Terrorism thrives on fear and division; only through collective action can we combat that menace. The Secretary-General said it all when he pointed out that the causes and motivation of terrorism need to be analyzed in each specific context. Only then can our action be purpose- and goal-oriented. The overwhelming response to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) demonstrates the resolve of Member States to address this worldwide challenge. However, the considerable strain that it is putting on the limited capacities of developing countries to implement resolution 1373 (2001) need to be seriously addressed.

HIV/AIDS is spreading fast, and improving their access to drugs is slow and very painstaking for those in developing countries. It is estimated that, of the 28 million people infected with HIV/AIDS, 26 million are in sub-Saharan Africa. In the light of that grave situation, it is estimated that $10 billion a year is needed to combat HIV/AIDS in developing countries, yet only a fraction of that has been secured. Meanwhile, global military spending stands at $800 billion a year. That is not morally right, and something different must be done. What is needed is access to affordable drugs and to a preventive vaccine. The major criterion in resource distribution should be the impact of the disease.

Children orphaned by HIV/AIDS need immediate attention, because they are at high risk. Malaria and tuberculosis are also spreading. Therefore, any efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS must focus on women and girls if we are to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Nowhere else is the problem of orphans and vulnerable children more rife than in rural areas in sub-Saharan Africa. Thus, the harmonization of policies among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development with regard to the impact of HIV/AIDS, food security and rural poverty is a welcome development.

While progress is being made in some regions in the area of poverty eradication, on the whole, Africa continues to lag behind. The simple fact of life is that developing countries cannot escape the web of poverty through their own efforts alone. The feminization of poverty is on the increase and needs to be addressed. The efforts of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and of other United Nations agencies aimed at helping women to improve their control over their economic assets need to be supported. If only the programmes of action agreed to at all major United Nations conferences could be implemented, then true partnership in eradicating poverty could be realized and progress could be made in halving poverty by 2015.

At this juncture, let me reiterate that there are acute food shortages in Southern Africa as a result of drought. We welcome the positive response to the United Nations appeal for Southern Africa. Natural disasters are recurrent, and the best way to address them is through an early-warning system. Food security in Africa needs to be addressed in the context of efforts to combat drought and desertification and acute water shortages.

The causes of conflict are multidimensional. We must do more in that area, and indeed we can prevent conflict from breaking out. We must invest more in conflict prevention. We concur with the Secretary-General that the capacity of States and of the United Nations needs to be bolstered. Regional organizations have a crucial role to play in that regard, and they need to be supported.

Just as the causes of conflict have many dimensions, so do its effects. As a country that emerged from a war of national liberation, we know too well the challenges posed by the reintegration of ex-combatants into society. That is a long-term programme dictated by specific conditions in each country. All parties to a conflict, the United Nations system and the international community as a whole have responsibility towards such people.

If we can strengthen the capacities of the United Nations funds and programmes in the vital area of nation-building, then we can accelerate the processes of peacemaking and peace-building. The long-standing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union should be strengthened to complement mutual efforts towards conflict prevention and peace-building. In that context, efforts should be made to address the problems of the spread of small arms and light weapons in Africa. In situations of conflict, the major problem has often been lack of access to humanitarian assistance. It is estimated that in Angola, approximately 800,000 people have gained access to such assistance for the first time in many years.

After favourable conditions have been created, the problem then becomes one of low response to available humanitarian assistance. That needs to be addressed, because, besides their nutritional needs, the health of women and girls — especially their reproductive health — warrants assistance. The situation of children is particularly important. We welcome the National Immunization Days of UNICEF, and we call on the parties to any conflict to honour those humanitarian efforts. The delivery of humanitarian assistance comes at a high price for United Nations staff and for other humanitarian workers. The Inter-Agency Security Management Network should, therefore, be supported earnestly.

Never before in recent times had multilateralism been emphasized as it was during the general debate of the fifty-seventh session. The growing political, social and economic problems that we face in this interconnected world require such an emphasis. The United Nations is an imperfect institution, but there is no alternative to it. What we must do is to enable the Organization to meet effectively the demands that we continue to place upon it, so as to make this world a better place for all, as our leaders committed themselves to do in the Millennium Declaration.

**Mr. Aboul Gheit** (Egypt) *(spoke in Arabic)*: At the outset, I should like to extend my thanks to the Secretary-General for the two very useful reports that we are considering today. We have studied them with interest, given the fact that they contain a clear presentation of the work of the Organization and of the progress made towards the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Last year a new challenge to humankind emerged: the threat posed by international terrorism. As a consequence of the regrettable events of 11 September 2001, international recognition of the new gravity of this new challenge led to efforts on the part of the organs of the United Nations to confront this dangerous phenomenon. This has proved once again the pivotal role of the United Nations in addressing international problems and phenomena, particularly with respect to international terrorism, which does not recognize any border or belong to any religion or culture.

We reiterate once again our support for the efforts of the United Nations in combating international terrorism. We believe it must play a practical and pivotal role in this regard as an effective tool that represents international will and legitimacy. Indeed, it has been successful in coordinating international efforts to suppress international terrorism.

Egypt believes that joint international efforts to achieve development should be based on the fact that this is a joint ethical, humanitarian and political responsibility on the part of the North and of the South. It is the best way to achieve prosperity for all and to maintain international peace and security. Egypt therefore calls for the strict implementation, in letter and spirit, of the decisions of the Millennium Summit and of other international conferences and summits.

History's final judgement will not be based on the good intentions and recommendations contained in political declarations, but on our success in implementing them. We noted with concern, in the report of the Secretary-General, the statistics on the implementation of international development goals and on the major disparities among different geographical regions, as well as the difficulties facing the African continent in achieving these goals.

In this connection, Egypt would like to emphasize that, in order to implement international development goals, the international community should have the political will to make resolute efforts to find a solution to the external debt problems of the developing countries; increase official development assistance to internationally agreed levels; liberalize the trade policies of industrialized countries, particularly in fields of interest to the States of the South, such as agriculture, textiles and clothing; address the issues of price instability of primary commodities and transfer of technology to developing countries and provide the necessary technical assistance to them.

Hence we call on the international community to follow up on the implementation of the commitments it has undertaken vis-à-vis the developing countries to complement their own efforts in that regard.

The commitments undertaken in the context of the Declaration's Development Goals are not only the responsibility of the developing countries, with their limited national resources; they are a joint responsibility that requires the efforts of developed and developing countries alike. It not enough, therefore, to refer only to the importance of various international development goals and international documents. Rather, these goals and the availability of funds to

implement them should be linked in keeping with the limited time frames.

International studies have indicated that achieving the goal set out in the Millennium Declaration of halving the number of people living in abject poverty in Africa by 2015 will require that the economy of that continent increase by at least 7 per cent annually. This will require closing a financing gap of $64 billion a year. But how can the continent come up with this enormous amount of money in the context of its current financial and trade system? What is required at this stage is not simply to diagnose and describe poverty academically at round tables, but multilateral consideration. We are of the view, therefore, that the continuing unfavourable international economic conditions and the large decrease in United Nations resources earmarked for achieving its development goals and operational activities are issues that must be addressed.

This is the starting point for the channeling of the resources promised by the countries of the North at Monterrey and for achieving the goals and implementing the programmes of the Millennium Declaration and the commitments undertaken at Johannesburg. The United Nations should continue to play its pivotal role in elaborating the political framework for international development and should endeavour to harmonize and integrate international development policies.

The report of the Secretary-General makes clear the fact that the attempt to control the spread of infectious disease is absorbing most of the funds allocated to international development. The impact of those diseases is not confined to the enormous losses in terms of human life; it is also limiting the production capabilities and consequently the income of those States.

Development losses have a double impact in terms of their dimensions and their effects. It is difficult to speak of the economic consequences of infectious diseases, particularly AIDS, which affects more than 60 million people. A third as many have died, and treatment is still difficult. All we can do is try our hardest to provide drugs for them that will curb the spread of the disease and enhance their immunity.

In this regard, the report states that the overwhelming majority of AIDS patients cannot afford these drugs. An incurable disease is a very sad thing. However, the fact that the drugs exist but cannot be acquired is psychologically destructive and ethically wrong.

We agree, therefore, with the Secretary-General's recommendation that there is a need for additional resources that exceed the current flows. We agree also with the call in the report to enhance the capacities of health-care institutions in the developing countries to help them deal with this disease.

The Organization's humanitarian efforts are of particular importance and should be supported at this difficult stage of humanity's history. There has been an increase in natural disasters and armed conflicts, which has led to the loss of many lives and the destruction of infrastructure. It has adversely affected development efforts in many countries, and has given rise to an unprecedented number of refugees and internally displaced persons.

We strongly condemn any violations perpetrated against civilians in time of war. We call on the international community to urge all States and parties to a conflict to respect the rights of civilians and not to sacrifice them to political or military ends. We emphasize the need for humanitarian assistance to reach these civilians. My country calls for applying the same standards in all cases, particularly since all the rules of international humanitarian law are binding on all States, whether big or small. In this connection, Egypt calls upon the international community to face up to the humanitarian emergency situation being experienced by the Palestinian people. This matter appeals to the international conscience, and will serve to provide this defenseless people with protection, as well as save the peace process in the Middle East.

*The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.*

United Nations A/57/PV.23

# General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

*Official Records*

**23**rd plenary meeting
Friday, 4 October 2002, 3 p.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Jan Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Hidayat (Indonesia), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Agenda item 44** (*continued*)

**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**

**Report of the Secretary-General** (A/57/270 and A/57/270/Corr.1)

**Agenda item 10** (*continued*)

**Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization** (A/57/1)

**The Acting President:** I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Lavrov** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The tragic events of 11 September 2001 gave a powerful impetus to our collective efforts to combat international terrorism and, as rightly underlined by the United Nations Secretary-General in his report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, highlighted once again the vital importance of multilateral efforts in preserving international peace and stability. The Russian Federation has always believed that a strong and efficient United Nations is the key tool to collectively manage international affairs and to build a stable multi-polar world order based on the United Nations Charter and the rules of international law. In this regard, it is necessary to continue improving and strengthening the Organization, and this is one of the most important tasks to bear in mind when implementing the Millennium Declaration.

We support the Secretary-General's appeal to formalize in the United Nations agenda the Organization's reform priorities as set out in the Millennium Declaration. In his reports, the Secretary-General, with good reason, emphasizes the unique role played by the United Nations and the Security Council in international efforts to combat terrorism. The strong determination to unite efforts to oppose terrorism is seen in the activities carried out by the international anti-terrorist coalition. Russia is one of the responsible participants in this coalition. It is vitally important that the coalition follow the consolidating and coordinating lead role of the United Nations and the Security Council, according to the rules of international law, particularly Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1377 (2001).

We note with satisfaction that, over the past year, the Organization has made great progress in regional conflict settlement issues, such as the assistance rendered to East Timor in its acquiring independence, the provisional self-governance authorities in Kosovo, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Transitional Administration in Afghanistan. We share the United Nations Secretary-General's view of the importance of the progress made during the past year, improving peacekeeping operations and increasing the United Nations' rapid deployment capability.

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The Security Council's key role at each phase of a peacekeeping operation — from the time of authorizing such operation, to adopting its mandate, and until its completion — is clearly defined in the United Nations Charter. In this context, it is of crucial importance to prevent any attempt to overlook the Security Council's authority, particularly when it comes to deciding on the use of force on behalf of the international community.

We welcome the positive developments seen in enhancing the capabilities of Member States, the Secretariat and the United Nations system at large to plan and conduct peace-making operations. However, contemporary large-scale problems in the world's hotspots require further intensification of joint efforts at all levels — national, regional and international — to improve and provide States' assistance in peacekeeping and peace-building to the Organization. In this context, we are deeply concerned about the persistent problem of shortage in troops and logistics to conduct peacekeeping/peacemaking operations, especially on the African continent.

We share the Secretary-General's assessment of the growing role of preventive diplomacy as a reliable means of safeguarding stability in the world. The unique set of political and diplomatic tools to resolve almost every acute international problem now available to the international community should be used effectively. We support the Organization's development strategy, reaffirmed in the Secretary-General's report, aimed at the eradication of poverty, the promotion of economic growth and sustainable development.

Particular importance is attached to United Nations activity guaranteeing a more equitable distribution of globalization benefits among all countries, including through their efficient participation in the international trade system, through strengthened international financial structures and improved access to the international resources for development purposes. The Conferences in Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg have become significant milestones along the way to attaining such objectives. We also note the new quality of interaction of the United Nations with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other partners in achieving goals set up in the Millennium Declaration and decisions of global forums.

On the whole, we share the Secretary-General's opinion that, despite the complexity of the outcome of the first stage of implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the success achieved shows, nonetheless, that the given tasks are within the international community's power.

The Russian Federation will continue to work actively to implement the Millennium Summit decisions in the future on the basis of the widest possible cooperation with the United Nations. The objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration cover all of today's pressing problems and lay the basis for shaping an effective global system to meet new threats and challenges, as proposed by Mr. Igor S. Ivanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, in his address to the General Assembly.

Today the entire world realizes the need for making cooperative efforts to overcome common threats. We have already got political experience and legal instruments for interaction, but the most important thing is that the international community have a reliable mechanism — a United Nations — that is capable of acting as a global coordinating centre with unique legitimacy, universality and potential.

We propose to adopt a resolution at this General Assembly session to encourage efficient and coordinated action aimed at responding to the challenges of the twenty-first century. The Russian delegation is putting forward a corresponding draft resolution, the essence of which is to facilitate further collective efforts to implement the Millennium Declaration, in such as way that all the objectives stipulated in it are attained on the basis of their organic interrelation and interdependence in the globalization age.

To do so, all States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, regional organizations and the private sector, as well as civil society, should unite their efforts. We highly appreciate the Secretary-General's endeavour to promote interaction and partnership in all these areas, and we deem it important to encourage such interaction. We hope that our draft resolution will win support of the participants in this session.

**The Acting President:** I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

**Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): I want to express our thanks for the convening of this meeting and for the opportunity given to us by the Secretary-General to discuss his report on the work of the Organization.

On this occasion, we are trying a new way of considering this item by combining a debate with another substantive item on the agenda, the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit. This is a complex task, because a number of reports have been published by the Secretariat on these topics, and they require profound analysis by Member States. We have very little time for this purpose.

We are now at a crucial point in the consideration of the United Nations system and how to adjust all of its institutions to enable them to deal with the realities of today's world.

The follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit provides us with a unique opportunity to begin the process of creating a just and sustainable world order. It can serve as a turning point, making it possible to stem the new, elitist order of domination that has been taking shape before our very eyes, but without our participation.

In this regard, we thank the Secretary-General for introducing his first annual report on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, as contained in document A/57/270, which invites us to reflect on the future of our Organization.

The delegation of Cuba considers the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit to provide a way of mobilizing the political will necessary to fulfil the commitments contained in the Declaration, without any need to reassert or restate those commitments.

We believe that the Millennium Declaration is basically well-balanced. Despite the various views and priorities of Member States, the Declaration has been able to provoke a largely positive response from the majority with regard to the need for its implementation. My country would like first of all to welcome the fact that the Millennium Declaration reaffirms our support for the purposes and principles of the Charter and that economic and social development objectives constitute the fundamental core of the international community's priority goals.

The prevention of armed conflict is, without doubt, a challenge that is confronting our Organization to a greater degree than ever before. Cuba believes that the strengthening of the principles and objectives of the Charter and of international law remain the basic pillars of international security: full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force in international relations and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The current unjust and profoundly inequitable international order must not be superseded by one that is yet more primitive and based on a unilateral reinterpretation of the Charter and of international law. We should not, for example, seek a United Nations that contributes to the achievement of a safer world by legitimizing neo-interventionism on the pretext of humanitarian action. The security problems that we are confronting today will never be resolved through so-called preventive wars or "humanitarian" intervention, which, in addition to constituting a grave risk to the security and stability of the developing countries, place the United Nations in a position subordinate to hegemonic interests.

Intervention is a gross violation not only of sovereignty but also of international law as it relates to the use of armed force, which the Charter specifically allows as an exception only. So-called humanitarian intervention as an exception to Article 2 of the Charter — intervention that attempts to justify itself with claims of protecting and defending human rights — is unacceptable.

The political manipulation of human rights, selectivity, partiality and double standards in the imposition of narrow-minded approaches must come to an end. Absolute and one-sided concepts of democracy based on models that have nothing at all to do with the specific characteristics of the society in question cannot continue to be imposed. If we allow the advancement of ideas that would tend to give yet more power to the powerful, making it easier for them to exercise their policy of domination using our Organization for that purpose, we would be contributing directly to legitimizing the law of the jungle in the system of international relations.

Another challenge presented by the Millennium Declaration is the emphasis that the United Nations should place on resolving the true causes of conflict and the problems of poverty and underdevelopment that today affect over four fifths of humankind. The United Nations has a fundamental role to play in

mobilizing financial resources and promoting international cooperation — elements that are essential if we are to fulfil the commitments and goals of the Millennium Declaration. Without greater political will on the part of the developed countries and the reforms necessary for the participation, on an equal footing, of the developing countries in the monetary, trade and financial systems, the aspiration to achieve a better world will amount only to good intentions and will not enable the eradication of poverty and the attainment of sustainable development in the era of globalization.

Neo-liberal globalization has created a world with clear imbalances. Political, economic and technological power is concentrated in the rich countries, which account for 20 per cent of the world's population, while millions in the developing world are marginalized and continue to live in extreme poverty and to suffer from poor health. For the developing countries, the right to development is an age-old aspiration. Despite the fact that the Millennium Declaration includes the right to development among its commitments, it has been forgotten. Worse yet, some developed countries are even questioning their own commitment to bringing it about. These countries — the same ones that preach good governance and respect for human rights as a way of development — might well be asked whether the right to development is not a human right.

My delegation does not share the views expressed in the chapter of the report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration on human rights, democracy and good governance in public affairs, which imply that only civil and political rights are relevant to the exercise of democracy. Such a claim is tantamount to disregarding the importance of social, economic and cultural rights, and thus undermines the validity of the arguments contained in that chapter.

A change is needed in the international economic and political order, and the United Nations must play an essential role in bringing it about. The international monetary, economic and financial system must be reformed. There is a need for international governability to make current international economic relations transparent and allow the developing countries to be integrated into the world economy in a sustainable way, so that such countries can cease to be passive participants in the global decision-making processes. The developing countries cannot remain on the sidelines as far as the benefits of the information and communication technologies revolution are concerned.

Just two years ago, the international community committed itself in the Millennium Declaration to halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases by 2015. Rather than improving, however, the global situation is worsening. Today, millions are dying of AIDS and millions more are continuing to be infected by the virus. More than 80 per cent of such deaths occur in Africa, where the majority of the more than 28 million people affected by the epidemic do not have proper access either to the medication or treatment that they need in order to fight the disease, avoid other opportunistic infections and alleviate their suffering.

The developing countries, particularly those in Africa, require immediate support from the international community, since the resources available to them are insufficient. They have to allocate such resources to paying off their foreign debt instead of using them for development. Today, Africa spends four times more on debt servicing than it does on education and health combined.

Therefore, without the allocation of the needed resources and the contribution of the rich countries, it will be impossible to reverse the trend, thus aggravating these and other problems in the developing countries.

Only if the developing countries receive special and differentiated treatment; if they are guaranteed full access to markets; if the deterioration in commodity prices is halted; if their foreign debt is cancelled; if they obtain access to modern technology; if official development assistance is increased; and if they are given the necessary financial resources without interference or precondition will they be able to achieve sustainable development.

The commitment to multilateralism should lead to the exercise of shared responsibility on the part of all States in the attainment of those commitments and goals. We also firmly believe, however, nonetheless that such responsibility must be differentiated between the rich and the poor countries so that special measures may be applied that favour the developing countries. Not to do so would be to perpetuate inequality and make us unable to fulfil the desired development objectives established in the Millennium Declaration.

**Mr. Zarif** (Islamic Republic of Iran): I wish to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Secretary-General for producing a comprehensive and thoughtful report on the work of the Organization. This report bears witness to the extensive and unrelenting efforts made by the Secretary-General and his colleagues in the Secretariat to advance the goals of the Organization.

My delegation applauds the Secretary-General for his significant focus, both in his report and in his insightful address to this Assembly, on the constructive change that multilateralism makes possible, as well as the opportunities and solutions that it provides. We believe that such a focus is of especially great importance at this stage of international relations. We are pleased that the leadership of the United Nations has taken the lead in developing the principles and practice of multilateralism and, in so doing, proficiently lived up to the expectations of the entire international community.

Undoubtedly, a growing tendency towards unilateral action that has intensified in the past year or two lies at the origin of the ongoing uncertainty and insecurity and, if unchecked, may cause a dangerous and widening rift between those who tend to act unilaterally and the wider international community. And as such, it poses fundamental risks to the international system, in the sense that it has already given rise to conflicting conceptions of how the great public goods — security, peace, environment, health, trade, aid and so many other things — can be achieved.

Unilateral policy and behaviour are not compatible with the globalized and interconnected nature of the current international system and are thus not sustainable in the medium and long terms. A glance at the actual world reveals that, as the Secretary-General correctly states in his report,

> "no single country has the capacity to cope with the political, economic, environmental and technological challenges of an interconnected world". (*A/57/1, para. 4*)

It is obvious that the current international structure is not unipolar in the sense that one super-Power, no matter how powerful it may be, can effectively resolve important international issues alone.

It is against this background that the vision provided by the Secretary-General on the need to enhance multilateralism takes on more importance. Inasmuch as the United Nations is a universal Organization and the unilateral approach runs counter to its very existence, it is appropriate and commendable that the leadership of this Organization play a leading role in preserving and promoting cooperation and coordination at the international level.

Driven by this vision, clearly, the leadership of the Secretary-General has made a significant difference on the issues of peace and security. To the extent possible, the United Nations has done its best to live up to the expectations of the world community with regard to the challenge of terrorism in the wake of the terrorist attacks on 11 September. The Secretary-General's report refers to multi-pronged efforts undertaken by the United Nations with a view to mobilizing and harmonizing the global struggle against terrorism. In our view, the United Nations is playing its part remarkably in building on the new focus of the international community on weak or collapsed States, such as Afghanistan, and mobilizing for their reconstruction. In the case of Afghanistan, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has played a positive role since its establishment last March as a positive example of an integrated United Nations Mission designed to address almost all aspects of the situation.

We also concur with the Secretary-General that "terrorism has political, economic, social and psychological roots" (*ibid., para. 1*). While nothing at all can justify the killing of innocent people, we believe that, unless political issues that serve as breeding grounds for terrorism are effectively addressed, unilateral military and forcible measures will be able only to cut terrorism's limbs. To address these issues more appropriately, we believe that there is a need for closer coordination between the Secretary-General and the Security Council.

As to the Palestinian question, one of the lingering political issues in the report of the Secretary-General, it is unfortunate that the Israeli regime has frustrated and finally defeated all efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his representatives aimed at alleviating the plight of the Palestinian people. The assertion by the Secretary-General, who has repeatedly affirmed that security cannot be achieved while no move towards the restoration of the basic rights of the Palestinian people is in sight, has fallen on deaf ears.

The proposal made last April by the Secretary-General to establish a multinational force was a courageous initiative, which, if implemented, could have had a great impact in lessening the suffering of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the effort of the Secretary-General to organize an investigation into the crimes committed during the Israeli incursion into the Jenin refugee camp — an effort that was blocked by the Israelis — is also worth recalling.

Regrettably, the Security Council has failed to act on these initiatives or to follow through on them and, in general, the Council continued in the period under review with its pattern of inability to put an end to the occupation of the Arab lands or to take any action that might improve the plight of the Palestinians. It is needless to recall that several actual vetoes or threats of veto lie at the origin of the paralysis of the Security Council on the Palestinian question. In the final analysis, the failure of the Council to enforce the implementation of its numerous resolutions risks eroding its authority.

In the area of disarmament, like the Secretary-General, we are disheartened by the low level of international cooperation in relevant multilateral forums. Regrettably, as he states in his reports, negotiations on a number of issues in the Conference on Disarmament remained deadlocked. The unilateralist tendency is having an impact, thereby rendering the task of the United Nations in conducting multilateral negotiations on strengthening the ban on weapons of mass destruction more difficult.

Moreover, an inclination towards a unilateral approach is blocking the negotiations on the protocol of the Biological Weapons Convention. As a result, in the period under review, the United Nations has been successful in achieving only some progress in implementing the Programme of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and in the increase in the number of participants in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. Indeed, it is modest progress indicative of the long way yet to be travelled.

In the field of development, we concur with the view of the Secretary-General that collaboration among United Nations system, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization should be continued and further augmented. Obviously, the aim of this cooperation is to achieve the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other major conferences and summits. We also agree with the Secretary-General that reinforcing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions to implement regional programmes is an important and challenging task for the United Nations. As a matter of fact, implementation is a challenge at all levels. Fortunately, the conferences in Doha, Monterey and Johannesburg have clearly defined how to address the challenge of putting the development concerns of the vast majority of countries — the developing world — at the centre of the activities of international organizations, in particular the United Nations. In the light of the outcomes of those conferences, the United Nations can and should further improve its work. To perform its leadership role, it is of crucial importance that the United Nations take concrete measures to implement the outcomes of those conferences which relate to the institutional and organizational aspects of its work. To this end, chapter X of the World Summit on Sustainable Development's Plan of Implementation — which anticipates new changes in the work of the United Nations system — and other relevant conferences should be implemented in an expeditious manner. Operationalization of those outcomes, which have the endorsement of world leaders, would enable the United Nations to succeed in the important aspect of its work: the promotion of development.

Finally, my delegation has noted the emphasis the report places on the efforts towards ensuring sound financial management, mainstreaming performance management and consolidating the reform of human resources management within the Secretariat. The findings and conclusions of various inspections, in-depth evaluations, audit activities and investigations undertaken during the past year demonstrate the importance of an intensified mechanism of accountability which is to be instilled throughout the Organization. Such a mechanism, a key element in the successful completion of the reform in human resources management, is imperative for full implementation of all mandated programmes approved by Member States. We believe that the Office of Human Resource Management should continue its central role of effectively supervising, among other things, the recruitment process to ensure that, while attracting highly qualified staff, the principle of equitable geographical distribution is respected.

including in filling vacancies in senior management positions. Strengthening the United Nations to be credible and capable of responding to the challenges emanating from the ongoing globalization process and to be relevant to all Member States entails the enhanced capacity of the Secretariat. We hope that the most recent round of reforms initiated by the Secretary-General will help the Secretariat's programme of work to better respond to the demands and concerns of Member States, particularly developing countries.

**The Acting President**: I now give the floor to the representative of Denmark, to speak on behalf of the European Union.

**Ms. Løj** (Denmark): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as well as the European Free Trade Association country of the European Economic Area Iceland, align themselves with this statement.

The Millennium Declaration brought together in a unique manner demanding, concrete and time-bound goals on peace, security and development as well as goals related to the further strengthening of the United Nations. The comprehensive implementation of the Millennium Declaration is an overriding priority for the European Union. The reports prepared by the Secretary-General as input for the debate today underline the complexity of the challenges we face in achieving the ambitious goals set out in the Millennium Declaration two years ago. Progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals has been significant but mixed.

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, we have made major steps towards successful implementation. In Doha, we agreed to a comprehensive development agenda with the focus on integrating the developing countries into the global economy. In Monterrey, we firmly established the partnership pact: the clear commitment by all developing countries to take primary responsibility for their own development, ensuring sound policies, good governance, democracy, human rights and rule of law. We would also like to pay tribute to the African leaders who have taken an impressive lead in this regard with the initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Developed countries have made a clear commitment to lend support to the development efforts. The commitments were reaffirmed at the World Food Summit in Rome last June. And the circle was completed in Johannesburg, which set additional targets for sustainable development to supplement the Millennium Development Goals, and which called for partnerships and implementation. Concrete action was called for — led by the developing countries — to promote sustainable development and eradicate poverty.

Those commitments must be followed through with perseverance. The European Union is fully committed to a comprehensive approach and to a coordinated strategy addressing the interlinkages in the efforts to promote sustainable development. Economic development, social development and environmental protection are mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. The European Union stands ready to assist in the efforts for development at the national, regional and international levels. We are the greatest trade partners for developing countries, and with the Everything But Arms initiative, we are opening our markets for all goods from the least developed countries. European Union heads of State and Government have pledged to significantly increase our level of development assistance and to ensure implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative. I would like to reiterate those commitments today.

Also, a strengthening and enhancement of the United Nations as an organization, at the Secretariat, intergovernmental and country levels, is a prerequisite for success in implementing the Millennium Declaration and meeting the goals contained therein. The European Union is fully supportive of the Secretary General's initiative to strengthen the Organization and will do all it can to take this issue forward in the General Assembly. The Millennium Declaration should be the main basis for continued improvement of the Organization's intergovernmental structure, the Secretariat and the budget — and the programmatic process. The European Union welcomes the fact that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as chief administrative officer of the Organization, has taken important steps towards modernizing the Secretariat.

We also emphasize the need of ensuring coherence between the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the other major United Nations conferences and summits. We must also take a holistic approach to monitoring and evaluation. A coordinated and integrated conference follow-up is called for within the existing frameworks — both at the national level and in the United Nations. That goes both for the agenda of the General Assembly, the Second Committee, the Third Committee, the Economic and Social Council and for reporting the resolutions and follow up.

This year the Secretary-General's report on the follow up to the Millennium Declaration focuses on two topics that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency: the prevention of armed conflict and the treatment and prevention of major diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

As for the prevention of armed conflict, the European Union warmly welcomes the extended focus and priority allocated to moving the United Nations from a culture of reaction to one of prevention. The European Union hopes that all United Nations member countries will embrace the conclusions and recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report on conflict prevention. We would support, and indeed actively participate in the implementation of all recommendations both within the United Nations as well as in other international and regional organizations and at the national level. The EU has embarked on its own programme for the prevention of armed conflict, with clear political priorities for preventive action. The EU will continue to work actively towards strengthening United Nations capacity in peace and security. The EU considers that the Brahimi report offers a unique opportunity to improve the way the international community approaches peace operations, and it will continue to contribute to the implementation of its recommendations.

The ability to provide humanitarian assistance to the millions that suffer as a consequence of conflicts all over the world is also an integral part in establishing and maintaining peace and security. There are serious gaps in the United Nations humanitarian response to the needs of the millions of internally displaced persons. To complicate things, there are still widespread attacks against humanitarian workers. Those matters need to be addressed. The protection of civilians, humanitarian workers and United Nations personnel in armed conflict is first and foremost the responsibility of the host State. But an enhanced international effort is also called for, and not least better coordination between all actors: local governments, civil society and the international community.

The international community made clear in the Millennium Declaration its commitment to assist countries hosting refugees and to promote the return of refugees and displaced persons. We support ongoing efforts to strengthen focus on finding sustainable solutions in the region of origin in the form of local integration or reintegration.

Evidence proves that there is a clear critical link between peace, security and conflict prevention and sustainable development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. That point cannot be stressed enough. The inter-linkage is unquestionable. Both sides of the problem need to be addressed. The task of achieving universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms remains daunting. Increased compliance with core human rights instruments and cooperation with human rights mechanisms are crucial in that context. But the persisting and grave violations of human rights in many parts of the world serve as a clear reminder that further international efforts are urgently needed in order to achieve universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The report of the Secretary-General highlights once again the devastating impact the HIV/AIDS pandemic has had on development in a number of developing countries, especially in the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa. The EU will continue and intensify its efforts aimed at eliminating HIV/AIDS. We reaffirm the importance we attach to an enhanced and balanced approach in order to address all dimensions of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through strong and coordinated efforts covering different forms of interventions, including prevention, treatment and care.

The EU action plan on aid for poverty diseases in developing countries aims at providing a comprehensive package of interventions for the three major communicable diseases: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The EU member States and the European Commission have committed substantial resources to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and we continue our commitment to helping the fund establish itself as an effective mechanism for

delivery of essential support to those most in need. The EU underscores the need to implement national and sectoral policies and plans, in which universal access to reproductive health care and services, population and gender issues are integrated, with a focus on adolescents.

One issue has been at the top of the international agenda during the past year: the fight against terrorism. The EU categorically condemns terrorism, whatever its form, motivation and manifestations. But with the same resolve, the EU emphasizes that the fight against terrorism must be conducted with respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We acknowledge the central role of the United Nations, the Security Council and its Counter-Terrorism Committee, and we urge the speedy signing and ratification of all 12 United Nations terrorism-related conventions, especially the one related to the financing of terrorism.

In conclusion, the EU believes strongly in multilateralism. We are ourselves proof of that. We can do more together than by individual actions. We welcome the commitment of the Johannesburg Summit to support the leadership role of the United Nations as the most universal and representative organization in the world. We agree with the Secretary-General when he states that the United Nations is a unique instrument available to the world for dealing with critical global problems and challenges.

**The Acting President**: I call on the representative of Indonesia.

**Ms. Rustam** (Indonesia): My delegation welcomes the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization. As usual, it offers a comprehensive and succinct review of United Nations activities in the past year, indicating areas of success and failure and pointing the way forward. It is enriched and supported this year by the arrival of the first-ever report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Millennium Summit. We thank him for both reports.

These reports remind us of the extraordinary challenge to international security and stability in the past year, following the terrorist attacks on the United States in September 2001, barely one year after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. The Secretary-General draws attention to the important role played by the United Nations in mobilizing international action in the global struggle against terrorism during the period, but notes that the phenomenon of terrorism has deep political, economic, social and psychological roots. We support the view that Member States have the primary responsibility to prevent the conditions within their borders that can give rise to terrorism.

In Indonesia's view, terrorism is a heinous crime. We need to combat that phenomenon and address its root causes comprehensively. However, while we fully support the resolutions adopted in the past year by the Security Council in an effort to combat terrorism, and the measures taken by Member States and regional groups, we believe that the challenge before the international community — as the Millennium Declaration makes clear — is, in effect, to make life worth living for all, so that terrorism has no hidden corners in which to sulk or breed. We must commit ourselves to lifting peoples from poverty. We believe that the international community should pay very close attention to this point and accept, as never before, that the issue of development is urgent, indeed a priority.

Unfortunately, on the subject of development and poverty eradication, the Secretary-General describes the prospects for meeting the Millennium Development Goals, one of which is reducing by half the number of people living on one dollar a day, as mixed, with progress in some parts of the world either hardly advancing or falling back dramatically. We still have 13 years to go before the target date, but as the Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs stressed here in the General Assembly debate last month, the war against terrorism can only be won if we emerge victorious in a more basic struggle, the one against poverty. In other words, it is not too early to remind ourselves that we cannot afford to fail.

In this connection, and in recognition of the various issues at stake, Indonesia recalls that last month the World Summit on Sustainable Development, for which we were pleased to have served as the chairman of the preparatory committee, reached an agreement on a global programme to reduce poverty and restore the integrity of our planet. If Governments, private business and civil society faithfully implement the plan of implementation that emerged, the world now has a good chance of making progress on this subject.

It is our hope that this session of the General Assembly will translate the aspirations of developing

countries, expressed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), into reality. We also share the appeals being made by other developing countries to our development partners and the international financial institutions to provide additional resources and honour the agreed targets for the official development assistance (ODA). In addition, we reiterate that for the Millennium Development Goals to be met, it is important to achieve an international trade regime where genuine multilateralism wins over unilateral practices and protectionism. We further support the initiative of the Secretary-General to establish a Millennium campaign in the United Nations to continuously place the Millennium Goals at the forefront of public consciousness throughout the world and ensure that they are the focus of action.

We believe that this same approach should be applied to the subject of conflict prevention and peacemaking. The Secretary-General notes that the focus of the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report of June 2001 on the prevention of armed conflict has been on securing greater cooperation with Governments, supporting sub-regional initiatives to promote peace and stability, and encouraging the inclusion of conflict prevention into national development programmes. We are in support of these efforts.

The General Assembly, along with other agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, has responsibility for eliminating the root causes of conflicts, especially those relating to socio-economic development. The link between conflict prevention and sustainable development has already been established, and we call for action on short- and long-term measures. We hope that, before the close of the fifty-seventh session, consensus will be reached on the draft resolution on conflict prevention.

In this regard, it is a sad reality that the international community seems more predisposed to absorb the enormous costs of conflict than to finding the will to prevent it. If the Millennium Declaration is to have any meaning, if it is to make a resounding impression in many parts of the world, it must begin by demonstrating not just the capacity of the international community to help find ways out of bitter conflicts but rather the commitment to prevent them in the first place. In this regard, we are grateful for the recognition accorded by the Secretary-General in his report to our approach at the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the prevention of regional conflict, an approach that focuses on economic integration and quiet dialogue.

We cannot end our comments on the subject of conflict prevention without saying a couple of things on the situation in the Middle East. The Secretary-General observed that, in the past year, the political tension was aggravated by further violence in the region. My delegation shares his view concerning the opportunities that arose during the year for progress towards a political settlement. We refer here to Security Council resolution 1397 (2002), which endorsed the prospects of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders, and welcomed the emergence of the Quartet to help both parties transcend the cycle of destruction.

We reiterate our call on those Member States that wield influence in the region to adopt a just and balanced approach to the issue of Palestine. They should persuade Israel to withdraw its forces from occupied territories and cease settlement activities in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions with a view to giving peace a genuine chance. In the interim, we once again stress the urgent need to deploy an international security force to protect innocent civilians in the conflict-ridden areas.

On the subject of disarmament, it is disappointing that in the past year international cooperation in multilateral forums continued to suffer. According to the report of the Secretary-General, negotiations on nuclear disarmament and a treaty on fissile materials, as well as efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space, remained deadlocked in the Conference on Disarmament. In addition, the review of the Biological Weapons Convention was suspended until November 2002, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has still not entered into force.

We welcome, however, the signing of the Moscow Treaty by the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation as a step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons, but agree with the preference of the Secretary-General for such reductions to be made irreversible, transparent and verifiable. We reiterate our call on nuclear-weapon States to return to negotiations, and to pursue them with a serious political commitment.

Turning to humanitarian issues, we agree with the assessment of the Secretary-General that the diversity of the humanitarian challenges over the past year underlines the need to further strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations to respond, quickly and effectively, and to offer comprehensive protection to civilians facing war and natural disaster. It is disturbing to learn that the challenges of delivering assistance and mobilizing adequate resources for under-funded emergencies has not improved over previous years, and that donor responses to United Nations Consolidated Appeals remains unsatisfactory.

We note the continuing and growing use of the tool of partnerships in the work of the Organization. Indonesia is proud to be a part of these partnerships. We encourage them as they nourish human understanding and support the work of the Organization. In his report, the Secretary-General notes his visit to Indonesia in May 2002, and draws attention to the efforts being made by the United Nations funds and programmes to support the Government's pursuit of political, economic and social reforms.

The Government of Indonesia is determined to promote good governance and to establish a stable, democratic and prosperous society, and we are grateful both for the Secretary-General's visit and for the declaration of his intention to enhance the efforts of the United Nations to assist the Government of Indonesia in achieving those objectives.

While this first report of the Secretary-General explores the efforts being made to implement the Millennium Development Goals in general, it is enriched by a very useful statistical annex that tracks progress in achieving the goals through the use of a common baseline. We thank the Secretary-General for that detailed information, and we hope that it will enable Member States to keep track of yearly progress as we approach 2015.

Finally, I should like to say a word about strengthening the United Nations. We are in agreement with the Secretary-General on the tremendous changes that have taken place in the Organization since it was formed in 1945 and on the improvements that must be made if the Organization is to continue to offer the peoples of the world its best service. On this point, Indonesia would like to emphasize the need to make the revitalization of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council a reality, not just a convenient slogan. We share the view that no reform of the United Nations would be complete without enlargement of the Security Council; the more the Council is seen as representative, the more authoritative it will be. At the same time, it is important to remember that the Council's authority will be strengthened by its working methods and by its ability to respond with equal purpose and fairness to the issues brought before it. It is through the taking of concrete action that the promise of the Millennium Declaration — which is a promise to the peoples of the world and to their posterity — will be fulfilled.

**The Acting President:** I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

**Mr. Cordeiro** (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): The annual debate concerning the report on the activities of the Organization offers us an opportunity to reflect on the direction being taken by the United Nations and on the ways of expanding the limits of our collective capacity to respond to the challenges that confront the international community.

Thus, we see this debate as a natural continuation of the general debate, as an occasion to draw conclusions from the analysis of the world situations made by our heads of State or Government and our Ministers two weeks ago, and as an appropriate time to prepare to take decisions that reaffirm the role of the United Nations as the repository of our hopes for a more secure, freer and more just world. Let us, therefore, not look so much to the past — to the many successes and the not-infrequent failures of the Organization — but rather to the future, with a clear vision of our collective responsibility in preserving and actively promoting the principles and objectives that inspire the Organization.

Today, we face a crisis of confidence in the mechanisms and methods of multilateralism. That must be overcome. We also face profound discouragement at the practical results of our efforts in the field of cooperation for development. That, too, must be overcome. As the Secretary-General said, the choice before us is very clear: we can continue to invest our efforts in achieving peace, order and justice in the world through negotiation and the quest for consensus, or we can return to an era when conflicts of interest were resolved through other means. For us, the choice is clear: there is no turning back.

I should like to refer specifically to four points. First, there is the fight against terrorism, which requires much of our energy. The general debate threw into relief the centrality of that topic. We are all committed unconditionally to that struggle; it is our conviction. The Organization's immediate response to the terrible events of 11 September was important, along with the advances made in perfecting our instruments of cooperation. Our efforts in that area must be pursued with determination.

However, the actions that we decide to take to eradicate terrorism must be conducted strictly within the limits of international law and of respect for human rights. In addition, we must not lose sight of the underlying causes of the phenomenon of terrorism — the fact that terrorism finds fertile ground in situations of conflict, extreme poverty, social exclusion, collective humiliation and despair. To limit our struggle to repressive and security aspects would be political short-sightedness, with dramatic consequences for the very credibility of our efforts. Likewise, the security agenda must be part of — or at least must be juxtaposed with — an effective agenda of conflict settlement and cooperation for development.

That leads directly to my second point. The results of the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg Conferences are positive in that they continue to give the proper priority to the topic of development on the international agenda. We now have a clear vision, and even a common platform, of necessary actions to confront the challenge represented by the promotion of more dignified living conditions for everyone. Nonetheless, in that regard, we believe that it is not new conferences or consensuses, but rather genuine readiness and political will, that are needed to set in motion the mechanisms that will enable us to implement the existing consensuses. That thought applies to all topics, from trade and development financing to the fight against HIV/AIDS and the promotion of sustainable development. Unfortunately, the lack of political will continues to increase, jeopardizing the consensuses that we have reached. The developing countries are individually undertaking efforts beyond their means to attain the goals agreed in the Millennium Declaration. But we have still not brought about a favourable international economic environment in which to realize those objectives. Protectionism continues its persistent trend in industrialized economies; the flow of productive investment in developing economies has declined even further; resources for development financing are clearly insufficient; official development assistance has reached its lowest levels ever; international financial institutions are not managing to respond effectively to the liquidity crisis and to speculative attacks; the funds to combat HIV/AIDS are quickly running out; some developed countries continue to boycott the Kyoto Protocol; and the Convention on Biological Diversity is unable to set in motion its mechanisms for the equitable distribution of the benefits of conservation and of sustainable use of biodiversity resources. We are experiencing an ambivalent situation, with important conceptual advances regarding the needed policies and actions, combined with an inability to put them into practice.

I turn now to the situation in the Middle East and to the problem of Iraq. With regard to the tragic situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the absence of a political consensus on how to resume the peace process and how to find hope with security for Israelis and Palestinians has led us to intolerable inaction. It is urgent that we find a solution, and it cannot be wholly delegated to a few actors. Rather, it is a collective responsibility that rests with the United Nations and, above all, the Security Council.

It is vital that the Security Council not confine itself to rhetoric and that it fully shoulder its responsibilities, including through mechanisms that can ensure implementation of the decisions adopted.

In the case of Iraq, we reiterate that enforcement actions considered under Chapter VII of the Charter cannot be taken without the authorization and the explicit support of the Security Council. The fact that Iraq or any country can repeatedly refuse to comply with Security Council decisions is a source of serious concern and is not inconsequential to the maintenance of international peace and security.

This is a crucial time for the United Nations and for the credibility of its decisions and its working methods. Just as we are debating this topic here in the General Assembly, we would like to see the Security Council itself debate it publicly as soon as possible in order to provide a clear understanding of the individual positions of its members.

**Mr. Akram** (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's report on the work

of the Organization and the report on the Millennium Summit.

We could not agree more with the Secretary-General that

> "no single country has the capacity to cope with the political, economic, environmental and technological challenges of an interconnected world". (*A/57/1, para. 4*)

The United Nations is a unique instrument and a forum in which collective resources and cooperation can be deployed to address critical global problems.

Fifty-seven years ago, the United Nations was considered humankind's last best hope. It is, if anything, even more critical to humankind's aspirations for universal peace and durable security today. The purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter remain as valid as they were in 1945.

Today, the shadow of conflict hangs over the world. During the past year, tensions have escalated in two sensitive areas of the world — South Asia and the Middle East. Our region — South Asia — is once again living up to its characterization as the most dangerous place on earth. India has deployed nearly 1 million troops on our eastern border. It refuses reciprocal de-escalation; it refuses bilateral dialogue; it refuses third-party mediation. The Secretary-General's report states:

> "In South Asia, an abrupt escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan during the first half of msituation remains volatile, and an outbreak of hostilities between these two countries with nuclear-weapon capabilities has the potential to escalate with terrible consequences." (*ibid., para. 24*)

In his opening statement to the General Assembly last month, the Secretary-General urged India and Pakistan to address the underlying cause of their differences — that is, Kashmir.

The path to peace in South Asia is clear. It does not lie in recourse to fraudulent elections in Indian-occupied Kashmir, to replace one puppet by another. It requires, first, withdrawal of forces from the borders; secondly, a ceasefire along the line of control; thirdly, an end to India's State terrorism in Kashmir; and fourthly, a resumption of dialogue.

Pakistan will continue to act with restraint and responsibility. We welcome the Secretary-General's renewed offer of good offices to India and Pakistan and would be happy to accept that offer. We hope India will do likewise. We would also like to welcome the appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative for the Kashmir dispute.

We all have welcomed the positive developments in Afghanistan and the positive role of the United Nations in this situation. But we cannot afford to become complacent. Security continues to be under threat in Afghanistan from a variety of sources, including tribal and regional rivalries. Pakistan continues to believe, and to urge, that the international community should deploy additional forces, especially in the regional centres, as a means of consolidating peace and security in Afghanistan and thereby ensuring that the writ of President Karzai runs throughout the country. To the same end, it is equally important to simultaneously commence the processes of rehabilitation and of reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Despite the Security Council resolutions adopted this year, again affirming the principle of land for peace and the creation of two States — Israel and Palestine — living side by side, the security environment in the Middle East has sharply deteriorated, as noted in the Secretary-General's report. Israel has persisted in its reoccupation and in the displacing of Palestinians, seeking to portray President Arafat in an ignominious light but, ironically, achieving the opposite. Unfortunately, peace remains ever more distant in Palestine, with the parties far apart on the structure and sequence of lasting peace in the region.

Today, the shadow of conflict hovers over the Middle East and beyond. The course of events relating to Iraq could have a significant impact on the future of international relations and of the United Nations itself. In our view, full and faithful implementation of Security Council resolutions and adherence by all to international legality are good guiding principles in this as in other international crises.

The Security Council has assumed an important role in peacekeeping and peace-building in various parts of the world. It is vital to ensure respect for the United Nations Charter. This includes implementation of Security Council resolutions, in accordance with Article 25 of the Charter.

Recent developments in South Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere have highlighted the continuing

reluctance of the United Nations fully to utilize the modalities for the peaceful resolution of disputes as set out in Chapter VI of the Charter. We hope that the Secretary-General will find it possible to activate these procedures where necessary, without the precondition of their open acceptance by all concerned parties.

Peacekeeping will remain important for the management of crises and the restoration of peace to many fractured societies across the Third World. Pakistan has historically played a major role in United Nations peacekeeping operations. We are at present the second-largest troop contributor, and we hope to continue in this role. We could do so more readily if our eastern neighbour ended its threatening deployments and agreed to mutual military de-escalation.

Pakistan notes with satisfaction the efforts made to improve United Nations peacekeeping operations in the past year or so. It welcomes the preparation of detailed standard operating procedures to streamline these operations.

In the context of discussing the role of United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Secretary-General's report has omitted any mention of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which has been monitoring the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan since 1949 in the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The stationing of UNMOGIP has on numerous occasions played a useful role in moderating tensions along the line of control. Pakistan would welcome a decision by the Secretary-General to enlarge UNMOGIP and to strengthen its mandate.

The United Nations role in disarmament must assume a greater salience than at present. The work being done on small arms, landmines, illicit transfers, and so forth, is important. The United Nations should not, however, abdicate its responsibilities to address the disarmament concerns that are central to the structure of international peace and security, as visualized in the United Nations Charter.

The United Nations must be able to substantially address nuclear disarmament, other weapons of mass destruction, the issue of missiles and anti-ballistic missile systems, as well as conventional disarmament, both at the global and regional levels. Apart from negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, the other relevant deliberative organs of the United Nations — that is, the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee, as well as the Disarmament secretariat — should be able to evolve the new norms and approaches required to address these central disarmament and security issues. Perhaps the convening of a fourth Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD) could provide the mechanism to do so.

The United Nations humanitarian role has been reinforced in recent crises, including the war against terrorism in Afghanistan. Apart from clear identification of objectives and parameters, in each major humanitarian operation, there is a need to streamline the command and control structures and to clearly define mandates, especially where several international agencies, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations are involved in a humanitarian operation. It is also essential to evolve some mechanism to ensure the durability of funding for humanitarian causes, particularly when they are off the television screens and the front pages.

A conscious endeavour is needed to realize the central role of the United Nations in promoting economic and social development as envisaged in the United Nations Charter. The international conferences held in recent years reflect a United Nations consensus on economic and social issues. We must translate this consensus into action through an effective follow-up process. Pakistan has advanced some ideas to establish a follow-up and implementation mechanism that can ensure coherent, integrated and coordinated progress towards the agreed goals endorsed by the international community.

The objective of achieving peace and development in Africa has been a priority for the international community for over a decade. Pakistan supports all United Nations initiatives that could bring peace and prosperity for Africa. We have consistently supported United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa and have participated in these operations on a large scale.

We have a binding commitment to our partnership with Africa. We welcome the launching of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which we hope will open up greater opportunities for durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Globalization has opened enormous opportunities for development, but its benefits are uneven and unequal. It has particularly accentuated the

disadvantaged position of developing countries, especially the least developed. This is manifested in rising income inequalities, the digital divide and concentration of economic power in a few corporate hands. Developing countries have little chance of integrating themselves into the global economy, unless we can have an enabling environment in which to work. The need of the hour is an effective, comprehensive, equitable and development-oriented strategy to address the debt problem of the developing and least developed countries, including debt reduction and increased concessional financial flows.

One area that requires close intergovernmental and Secretariat review is that of human rights. It seems essential to organize the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in a rational and effective way, including the manner of its funding and operations. We are not sure that we can advance human rights by proliferating human rights mechanisms. In this endeavour, we could draw upon the efforts made in the recent past by a working group of the Commission on Human Rights. We are confident that the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will address these issues energetically and effectively.

We have welcomed the Secretary-General's second report on United Nations reform. Pakistan supports, in principle, the process of reform at the United Nations. There are a number of proposals in the report that will streamline the functioning of the Secretariat. Such proposals would receive our strong support. There are, however, a number of proposals that impact the intergovernmental processes. We believe that these will require intergovernmental discussions, especially with regard to the financial management of the Organization.

We have also taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved by the United Nations system and Member States towards implementing the Millennium Declaration. We agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that the record of the international community in the first two years of implementing the Millennium Declaration is, at best, mixed. While some advancement has been made, the overall progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other lofty objectives has been abysmally slow. We join in the call made by the Secretary-General to evolve a coordinated strategy — one that harnesses the combined energy of Member States, international institutions and civil society — in the pursuit of the objectives of the Millennium Declaration.

Speaking here on 12 September, the President of Pakistan stated,

> "We must capture this growing spirit of global humanism to advance the quest for global prosperity and universal peace. This can be accomplished only at and by the United Nations". *(A/57/PV.2)*

That is its central purpose, the reason for the existence, of our Organization.

*The President returned to the Chair.*

**The President:** Before giving the floor to the next speaker, I should like to announce that on the morning of Monday, 7 October 2002, the General Assembly will consider the second report of the General Committee as the first item.

Now I would like to give the floor to the representative of Sri Lanka.

**Mr. Mahendran** (Sri Lanka): The Sri Lanka delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for introducing his annual report on the work of the Organization and also for his first annual report on the follow-up to the Millennium Summit, which focuses on commitments made in the Millennium Declaration.

The two reports, taken together, provide us with a review of our actions in the past year and information on what is needed to move further ahead.

The Secretary-General has correctly observed that the agenda of the United Nations is vast. The United Nations agenda has many important issues. These include achieving peace and security, promoting development and eradicating poverty, all of which affect us all. International cooperation in these activities is aimed at improving the quality of life of people, wherever they may be.

Despite serious setbacks for international peace and security in some regions, the United Nations has made progress in bringing peace to other areas. The catalogue of steps taken by the Secretary-General and his staff, and the efforts they are making to achieve peace and security, are commendable. The advances made, to name a few, in East Timor, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone, are important

developments in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

In his report on the follow-up to the Millennium Summit, the Secretary General has underlined certain impediments for better planning and coordination of United Nations efforts for peace-building and stressed the need for increased support from Member States.

We in the international community should endeavour to make available to the Secretary-General the necessary assistance to enable him to improve the United Nations capacity to maintain peacekeeping operations, including United Nations activities in the area of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. We wish to reiterate our support for the United Nations contribution to peacekeeping operations and to building the infrastructure of peace.

The United Nations has been at the forefront of meeting humanitarian challenges and protecting and assisting refugees and internally displaced persons. However, we note that the United Nations agencies that deal with assistance to refugees and displaced persons are facing insufficient funding. We urge the international community to consider the provision of adequate resources to the Secretary-General for those purposes.

In this context, I would like to refer to my country, where, since 5 December last, when the new Government came into office, we have been implementing an initiative to build up a peace structure in our country so as to bring to an end our long, drawn-out internal conflict. In this effort, the Secretary-General has been magnanimous. When requested, he sent a fact-finding mission and a needs-assessment mission, which he put together in little more than 24 hours. That is the type of prompt response that can go a long way in helping to strengthen the hand of the Secretary-General.

We are grateful to the newly established Inter-agency Network on Internal Displacement, which is providing targeted support to teams, not only in Sri Lanka, but in many other regions in the world — wherever there is a refugee problem.

We share the Secretary-General's view that the response to problems of internal displacement rests primarily with the affected country. But at the same time, in areas where conflict has erupted or is ongoing, it would be very difficult for such countries to find adequate resources to help in settling displaced persons in the areas where they should be. We support the Secretary-General's efforts to obtain greater resources in this area.

It is in this context that I wish to refer to your opening statement, Mr. President, in this debate on the two items under consideration. You very rightly said that we have to keep in mind that the credibility of the United Nations is based not only on its ability to articulate political goals but also, and primarily, on its ability to mobilize political will for their implementation. You never said a truer word. I think we should all remember those words. Without political will we will not achieve what we have set out to do. This is particularly true in the sphere of the Millennium Declaration.

The development goals set out in the Millennium Declaration are of the utmost importance, and achieving those goals remains a high priority. Progress has been made in some regions, but the progress made among the poorest of the poor — that is, poverty alleviation in the poorest countries — appears to be slow and marginal. The mixed results of the progress made so far in meeting the development goals paint a very gloomy picture indeed. For the poorest of the poor, who deserve immediate attention and maximum benefits in the process of achieving these goals, the window seems to be closing rather than opening. Urgent attention therefore needs to be paid to what we set out to do at the most recent international conference in South Africa.

We welcome the steps outlined by the Secretary-General to accelerate progress to reach those development goals. Coordination among and assistance to all United Nations agencies that have set out targets in this field must be our priority.

We must strengthen action within the United Nations — action on social concerns in relation to ageing, population, people with disabilities, drug abuse and transnational crime, and in relation to the technical cooperation provided to Governments for the implementation of social development programmes, including, in particular, HIV/AIDS programmes.

We are happy to see the establishment of the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, which is now ready to assist in such areas as integrating information and

communication technologies into national development strategies. In doing so, the United Nations goal should be to provide a major portion of the population with access to communication technology at an affordable price.

It is rather disappointing to note that there was little international cooperation this year in multilateral forums on disarmament. This has also left negotiations on a number of major disarmament issues deadlocked in the Conference on Disarmament. We urge the Conference on Disarmament to engage in constructive discussions in order to resolve the outstanding issues.

Progress in implementing the Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is noteworthy.

In this regard, we thank the Secretary-General for providing assistance to Sri Lanka by sending a fact-finding mission on the proliferation of illicit small arms. The report of the fact-finding mission is currently being studied by the authorities in Sri Lanka with a view to taking further action.

Reform of the United Nations also remains high on our agenda. We appreciate the work done by the Secretary-General in the area of United Nations reform, as well as his continued efforts in carrying out the reform process, the focus of which is to ensure that the United Nations programme of work is aligned with the priorities and principles laid out in the Millennium Declaration. Finally, we agree that the reforms should take place within the United Nations Secretariat and the General Assembly, as well as in its principal organs.

**Mr. Singhara Na Ayudhaya** (Thailand): Thailand is pleased with the decision of the General Assembly to take up agenda items 44 and 10 jointly, since the subject matter of these items is clearly inter-related. We believe that in order to make significant advances towards achieving the goals set out at the Millennium Summit, the work programme of the United Nations must be realigned with the priorities and principles laid out in the Millennium Declaration.

The threat to international peace and security, as well as to human security, posed by international terrorism continues to be of major concern to the international community one year after the horrifying terrorist attacks of 11 September. It is therefore fitting that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/57/270) and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/57/1) both highlight this important issue. On 4 October 2002, the Security Council held an open meeting in which regional groups, including the Association of South-East Asian Nations, and States reflected on what the United Nations has accomplished in the critical area of counter-terrorism in the past year. The prevailing message at the meeting was that a lot has been achieved to advance the cause of international cooperation on counter-terrorism but that still more needs to be done. The Counter-Terrorism Committee may have provided the catalyst, but, in the end, it is the actions of States in combating international terrorism and — equally as important — the assistance they receive from the international community that will make the difference.

As for Thailand, we are strengthening our laws and our cooperation with the United Nations in the fight against international terrorism, while also intensifying cooperation at the regional and subregional levels. And as the Thai Foreign Minister said in his statement to the General Assembly on 17 September

> "There is to date no indication whatsoever that there is any trace of terrorist capability in Thailand. We are making sure that no terrorist activities or networks can be harboured in our territory." (*A/57/PV.12*)

The threat posed by international terrorism makes multilateralism even more relevant. The need to enhance international support for multilateralism goes beyond the calls for the strengthening of the United Nations: it requires a reaffirmation of faith in multilateralism and in the ability of the United Nations to discharge its mandate effectively and fairly. It is thus regrettable to note in the Secretary-General's report that the increasing frequency of unilateral actions has put existing multilateral arrangements at risk. This case is most clearly seen in the area of weapons of mass destruction. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization, there was little cooperation in multilateral forums on disarmament this past year. The threat of terrorist organizations gaining access to weapons of mass destruction surely should have spurred countries to renew their commitments to multilateral agreements regarding such weapons.

However, the reality is that confidence in multilateral agreements on weapons of mass destruction is being eroded and that unilateralism could become a first, rather than a last, resort. Nevertheless, Thailand continues to have strong faith in multilateralism and confidence in the United Nations system's ability to resolve all issues affecting international peace and security and to meet other goals of the Millennium Declaration.

The promotion of international peace and security is the responsibility of all of us. In this connection, I should like to recall the Secretary-General's observation in his report on the Millennium Declaration that, in some areas of the world, there has been some progress towards peace, whereas in others, peace remains elusive. This clearly requires greater international attention and cooperation in conflict-prone areas. For our part, Thailand will continue to contribute to promoting international peace and security. In that regard, Thailand is proud and honoured to facilitate the peace negotiations between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam by serving as host to the negotiations.

However, peace and security cannot be sustained if we do not address the economic and social challenges of a particular country or region. Peacekeeping and peace-building are thus becoming increasingly symbiotic; we cannot fully have one without the other. A successful peacekeeping operation needs to be complemented by feasible and sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and, sometimes, a comprehensive nation-building effort. In keeping with that approach, Thailand's peacekeepers in Timor-Leste, through the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor, not only have fulfilled the traditional peacekeeping roles assigned to them but have also engaged intensively in rebuilding activities and other measures to support sustainable development. Thailand will continue to give its strong support to United Nations peacekeeping missions and hopes that all such peacekeeping missions will have adequate peace-building components.

While the international community should continue to be engaged in maintaining international peace and security and be more vigilant in the war against international terrorism through multilateral frameworks, that should not divert our attention from other equally important and pressing goals, in particular poverty eradication. During the past year, the international community has adopted three important documents that provide fresh impetus to improving the international trade and financial system and to securing greater benefits for all economies in the globalized world. The United Nations has played a pivotal role in building up the dynamism of a global partnership for development and must play a more meaningful role to ensure that the Doha Agenda, the Monterey Consensus and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation are implemented in a manner that truly benefits developing countries. Thailand also shares the Secretary-General's view that the right national and international economic conditions are key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals on poverty eradication.

The rapid spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic is another major threat to human security and is appropriately given attention in the Secretary-General's report. Such is the enormity of the pandemic that it could potentially reverse what we have achieved in development. The fact that over 40 million people are infected by the disease worldwide is utterly unacceptable, as well as unsustainable. Thailand is not spared by this scourge. But we have faced up to the problem and initiated various measures to deal with it in a comprehensive manner. Our success in the control and reduction of the HIV/AIDS infection rate has been widely recognized and recorded. We are proud and, indeed, grateful that the Secretary-General has referred to Thailand as one of the few countries where HIV prevalence rates have declined for several years. Although Thailand has made great strides in this area, we are fully cognizant that the threat of HIV/AIDS can never be overcome single-handedly because it is a global epidemic. So, we shall continue to cooperate at the global level. In this regard, Thailand will host the XV International AIDS Conference in 2004, with a view to addressing the multiple aspects of HIV/AIDS, namely prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as research and development.

The production and trafficking of illicit drugs remain a major concern of the international community and a major threat to human security in my country. The drug threat, when linked to other forms of transnational crime, such as money-laundering, international terrorism and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, becomes even more dangerous. We are determined to counter the world drug problem, as

called for in the Millennium Declaration, and the Thai Government has declared an outright war on drugs. To ensure success in tackling this menace, a strong partnership must be formed domestically between governmental agencies and local communities, and through bilateral, regional and international cooperative frameworks. The expertise and financial support of the United Nations, particularly the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, are vital ingredients in this partnership. For our part, Thailand will continue to play its part in forging such a partnership. In that regard, we have initiated quadrilateral cooperation on the prevention and the suppression of the production and trafficking of drugs between China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, and it is anticipated that the leaders of those four countries will meet at an appropriate time to give much-needed political impetus.

Despite much progress, much remains to be done. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals requires the existence of an enabling environment of peace, as well as a favourable economic environment and stability. We also need to ensure a fairer world economic system and a more level playing field among nations. An oasis of prosperity cannot be sustained while millions are still condemned to a life of hopelessness.

**The President**: I regret to have to announce that I will have to adjourn the meeting because of a lack of speakers ready to take the floor now. Yet, I would like to remind Members that the schedule for the consideration items 10 and 44 was announced weeks ago and was confirmed last Friday in the published programme of work of the General Assembly. Therefore, Member States have had, in my mind, ample time to prepare their statements. I regret to acknowledge that today we have heard only 23 speakers, 14 in the morning and 9 in the afternoon, and that there are still 43 speakers on my list. We shall continue the debate on Monday morning, 7 October 2002, at 10 a.m.

*The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.*